A
REVIEW
OF THE
CHARACTERS
OF THE
PRINCIPAL NATIONS
IN
EUROPE.

In Two VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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OF THE GERMANS.

AFTER the Eſtabliſhment of the weſtern Empire, in the Perſon of Charlemain, Germany thro' its perpetual Intercourſe with Italy, ariſing from the Pretenſions of his Succeſſors to the Sovereignty of that Country, received the Benefit of what Knowledge and Literature were then current in that only Spot of their Cultivation during thoſe barbarous Times.

As Eccleſiaſtics poſſeſſed excluſively the little Learning then extant, and well underſtood how to turn to the beſt Account the Veneration and Authority they derived from it, the Influence they bore in all Matters, civil as well as ſpiritual, was prodigious: Inſomuch that it became an eſtabliſhed Rule to conſult them in every Undertaking of Importance. Thus, when William the Conqueror was meditating his Expedition againſt England, he thought it neceſſary to ſecure the Approbation of the moſt celebrated Clergymen in Europe, and of the Pope eſpecially, who ſent him a conſecrated Banner; a Preſent which, however trifling it may now appear, was held by the Normans in as great Reſpect as the *Labarum* of the Roman Emperors by their Legions; and, what was more to William's Purpoſe, was conſidered by his whole Army as an unanſwerable Proof of the Juſtice of his Cauſe, and an infallible Earneſt of Victory. When the Cruſades were firſt ſet on foot, the like Sanctions were uſed to authoriſe them; and all Chriſtendom reſounded with the zealous Exhortations of the Clergy of all Orders and Denominations, promiſing Succeſs in this World, and everlaſting Felicity in the next, to all who contributed, by their Purſe or their Perſons, to ſo ſacred and meritorious an Enterprize.

IN the Civilization and Settlement of Germany eccleſiaſtical Policy had evidently the principal Management; filling that vaſt Country with Colonies of Monks and Friars, and ſubjecting the civil Government to that of the Church, in every Place where the leaſt Pretence was afforded to ſuch Incroachments. A Syſtem which, notwithſtanding the Introduction of Proteſtantiſm, and the great Alterations that have enſued from that Cauſe, yet ſtrongly maintains its Ground; and tho' invaded in many conſiderable Parts, like a Tree whoſe Trunk and capital Branches ſtill remain untouched, it bids fair to laſt and flouriſh, and ſeems not in the leaſt apprehenſive of long ſeeing the Axe laid to its Root.

THE Duration of ſuch an extraordinary and complex a Conſtitution as that of the German Empire, is entirely owing to the Diſpoſition and Temper of the

Natives; a Race of Mortals peculiarly gifted with that Moderation which can reſt ſatisfied with any Plan that is found any ways tolerable; and is not prone to make frequent Experiments of new ones, leſt a Change might happen for the worſe.

HENCE, tho' they have deviated in ſome Meaſure from this Maxim in religious Matters, which, however, is eaſily accounted for, when the Motives, the Times, and the Actors are conſidered; yet the Spirit of thoſe Inſtitutions that took Place at the primitive Formation of the Germanic Body, ſtill ſubſiſts and uniformly preſides in all Affairs of Moment.

IN the Days of the Emperor Maximilian, about the Beginning of the ſixteenth Century, Learning, Arts, and Commerce flouriſhed in Germany more than any where in Europe, except in Italy, from whence they were communicated: And in the Courſe of the following Age, at that Period which preceded the Breaking out of the fatal thirty Years War that involved it in univerſal Bloodſhed and Deſolation, Germany had attained to ſo remarkable a Degree of Happineſs and Splendor, that Cluverius, who wrote about that Time, begins his Account of it by aſſerting, as a known indiſputable Fact, that from the Greatneſs and Magnificence of its many Cities, and the Arts of Agriculture and Fertilization, it was a Country comparable to Italy, and preferable to any other in Europe.

THIS State of Proſperity was owing to the happy Liberty of Conſcience which prevailed from the Reign of Charles the fifth to that of Ferdinand the ſecond; whoſe Bigotry and Ambition equally contributed to plunge his Country into thoſe Scenes of Miſery that almoſt totally ruined it. During the Courſe of that terrible War the faireſt Provinces of that unhappy Empire were laid waſte alternately by Friend and Foe; the moſt beautiful Edifices were deſtroyed; the richeſt Towns and Cities plundered, burned, and levelled to the Ground; and the moſt horrid Maſſacres committed without the leaſt Mercy ſhewn on either Side.

THESE dreadful Diſorders laſted 'till the Pacification of Weſtphaly, which is in Germany, like the Revolution in England, the grand Epocha from whence they date the final Settlement of their Conſtitution. Since that auſpicious Event they have laboured ſucceſsfully in repairing the Diſaſters of their Country; in reſtoring it to its former Situation, and introducing the Improvements of other Nations.

SUCH, in general, has been the Fortune of the Germans: A People whoſe Character deſerves as much Attention and Study as that of any Nation whatever; and who, tho' leſs renowned for Brilliancy of Genius and Capacity than ſome of their Southern Neighbours, yet have an ample Stock of thoſe Abilities that are uſeful and eſſential in the more important Concerns of Life and political Society.

TACITUS, in his Account of their Anceſtors, ſeems to undervalue their intellectual Merit; but this was at a Time when they were abſolute Strangers to all Manner of Civilization, and deſerved the Stile of Barbarians in its fulleſt Latitude. Yet even in this rude State of untutored, unpoliſhed Nature, they diſcovered a Vein of Judgment and good Senſe in many of their Tranſactions, both among themſelves and with others, the Romans eſpecially, that fully ſhewed their native Endowments wanted only Cultivation to ſhine with diſtinguiſhed Luſtre. With all their Deficiencies they were ſtill a Match for that ambitious People; and remain the moſt illuſtrious Proof Hiſtory furniſhes, that Firmneſs of Mind, and Perſeverance in ſtruggling with Difficulties, are alone ſufficient to render a Nation invincible, and equal in real Strength to thoſe who are poſſeſſed of all the Refinements and Advantages of a polite and enlightened Education.

A French Writer, Bouhours, has thought proper to deny them Admittance in the Province of Wit. In this he is ſeconded by another of his Countrymen, Dacier, who in the Preface to his Tranſlation of Horace, gives the like Excluſion to all the Nations lying North of France, the Engliſh themſelves not excepted; among whom particularly he ſingles out Dryden, as an Object of his Cenſure, and conſequently as a Proof of the Juſtneſs of his Severity. But Bouhours was no better acquainted with the Merit of the Germans, than Dacier with that of the Engliſh; and the Impertinence of both their Criticiſms ſerves only to expoſe their own Ignorance of the Subjects they took upon them to be Judges of. Bouhours was little more than a mere Phraſeologiſt in his own Language; and Dacier ſhould have confined himſelf to the Taſk of commenting and tranſlating; for the latter of which, however, he was by no Means eminently qualified, his French being far from elegant, and falling infinitely ſhort of that of Tarteron, and Sanadon, whoſe Verſions of Horace are greatly ſuperior to his.

When uninformed Individuals venture to obtrude on the Public their raſh Deciſions on the Capacity and Talents of whole Nations, they ought to be expoſed to the World in their genuine Colours; leſt the Celebrity of a Name, often obtained with very little ſolid Deſert, ſhould impoſe on the Generality of Mankind, too willing to accept of Information without inquiring into the Character of thoſe from whom they receive it; who, tho' Perſons perhaps of real Merit in thoſe Branches they have made the principal Buſineſs of their Lives, and on which their Reputation may be reaſonably founded, not unfrequently betray the moſt ignominious Barrenneſs of Underſtanding and Knowledge, when they preſume to ſtep out of that long beaten Track to which their Minds, by conſtant Uſe and Habit, are become ſo intirely faſhioned, as to loſe all Aptitude to treat of other Matters with Diſcernment and Propriety.

The Germans, ever ſince the Extinction of their civil Feuds, a Century ago, have made a very conſpicuous Figure in the Republic of Letters; and of late Years have conſiderably improved their own Tongue, which is bold, manly, and copious. In paſtoral, and Epic Poetry they have produced Compoſitions of prime Merit. The Names of a Brocks, a Kleiſt, a Klopſtock, and a Geſſner, are ſufficient to reſcue them from an Imputation of a Defect of Genius; and the Tranſlation of their Works into other Languages is an incconteſtible Proof of their ſuperior Excellence.

THE Force and Energy of their Works in Proſe is univerſally allowed; and in particular the emphatical Diction of their Prayers and Sermons; a Circumſtance which even ſome Frenchmen of Note, well converſant in their Language, have been impartial enough to acknowledge; and what was ſtill more, have confeſſed that the Stile and Expreſſions of their own were not equal in Point of Weight and Sublimity to thoſe of the German.

SONNETS, indeed Madrigals, and Epigrams Germany has hitherto made a very ſmall Progreſs in. But this they need not lament, when we reflect how little ſuch Compoſitions contribute to a great Reputation.

NEITHER have they ſhone in the Drama; which is not to be wondered at, when we conſider the ſlight Encouragement it has met with; and the Preference ſtill given to the French Language in moſt, or all, of their Courts; where theatrical Diverſions are almoſt conſtantly borrowed from that Nation, and where, with very few Exceptions, an Opinion prevails that whatever relates to Feſtivity and polite Recreations is beſt underſtood by the Natives of that Country.

IT has often been aſſerted, by the French eſpecially, that the Germans are ſlow in the Apprehenſion of Things, and heavy in their Proceedings. To which it may be anſwered, that they are uſually very ſolicitous thoroughly to comprehend what they go about; and more intent to ſecure Succeſs by Labour and Diligence, than willing to riſk it by Hurry and Precipitation. This is the natural Reſult of their phlegmatic Diſpoſition; a State of Mind that holds the Paſſions in a happy Subjection to Reaſon and Reflection; by ſubſtituting Coolneſs and Serenity of Judgment in the Room of Impetuoſity and Fire of Imagination; the Suppreſſion of theſe making way for that even Temperature of the Soul which enjoys all its various Senſations with Calmneſs, and is not eaſily moved from its Poiſe.

THIS Habit of Deliberation renders the Germans leſs liable to be actuated by Violence in their Reſolutions than many of thoſe who boaſt of the Superiority of their Councils. Hence proceeds that Moderation which preſerves the Proteſtants from being held in as much Hatred and Abhorrence in the Romiſh Parts of Germany, as in the other Countries of that Communion. Moſt of their religious Wars were much leſs prompted by inconſiderate Zeal than political Motives; as plainly appeared at the Treaty which terminated their domeſtic Troubles, by the Facility with which all ſpiritual Matters were accommodated.

WHATEVER the Difference of Opinion may be touching their intellectual Endowments, their moral Qualities have never been called in Queſtion. Their Benevolence Friendlineſs, and Hoſpitality are well known; and their Candour and Sincerity are almoſt proverbial. Their

Manners are plain, ſimple, and little altered from what they were Ages ago: And if they have adopted many foreign Uſages, yet they have had an Eye to Propriety in their Imitation, and have not been the ſervile Copiers of the French in their needleſs Refinements, nor of the Italians in their falſe Notions of Grandeur. Thus their Tables have an ample Sufficiency, without endleſs Niceties; and their Ways of Living are generous, without being profuſe. Tho' Lovers of State, yet their Princes indulge in the moſt friendly and frequent Intercourſe; and never permit an ill-grounded Pride to obſtruct the Pleaſures of good Fellowſhip and agreeable Society. Very different herein from thoſe of Italy; among whom an Approximation is almoſt impracticable, from the prepoſterous Difficulties they find in adjuſting the Ceremonial to be obſerved between them.

THIS is the more remarkable, as the German Grandees are of all People the moſt infatuated with their Birth, tenacious of the Prerogatives annexed to it, and deſirous of augmenting them by an Acceſſion of titulary Honours.

SOME of their principal Sovereigns have carried theſe ambitious Prepoſſeſſions ſo far, as never to reſt 'till by an Equivalence of nominal Dignity, they had raiſed themſelves to the Level of thoſe, of whoſe Superiority in Reſpect of Rank, they could not bear the moſt trifling Indication. Thus Frederic, the firſt King of Pruſſia, expended immenſe Sums to obtain that Appellation; the Want of which had obliged him to ſubmit to the Refuſal of an armed Chair, in his Interview with our William the third. Inſpired with the ſame high Mindedneſs, the Houſe of Saxony ruined itſelf for the empty Name of Kings of Poland; and the Houſe of Bavaria lately did the ſame for that of Emperor.

An equal Spirit animates them in the Proſecution of courtly Splendor. Hence, not to be wanting in any of thoſe Appendages of Brilliancy that were formerly known only in the capital Courts of Europe, Orders of Knighthood have been inſtituted with the moſt coſtly Solemnities. Brandenburgh deviſed the black, and Saxony the white Eagle: And Foundations of the ſame Kind have been made by other Princes of the Empire; who ſaw how greatly their reſpective Subjects were delighted with theſe Badges of imaginary Diſtinction, and were determined to gratify them, as they could do it at ſo cheap a Rate.

From theſe Cauſes Germany, beyond all Countries, abounds in Stars and Ribbands; the Wearers of which are induſtrious in ſeizing every Opportunity to diſplay them with Eclat; wherein they are fully abetted by their Maſters, who are immeaſurably fond of promoting whatever has a Tendency to Pomp and Ceremony.

The above-mentioned Frederic of Pruſſia was a Hero in theſe Feats; and ſpent the greateſt Part of his Reign in a Round of Magnificence hardly inferior to that of Lewis the fourteenth of France his Cotemporary, whom he moſt punctiliouſly emulated in all the Departments of Court Grandeur. His Guards and Retinue were clad; his Palaces furniſhed, and his Houſhold maintained with more Coſt and Sumptuouſneſs than thoſe of any Monarch, except the French. Happily, however, at the ſame Time, imitating him no leſs in the more laudable Parts of his Character; by encouraging the polite Arts, and eſtabliſhing Schools and Academies for their Cultivation, and by providing liberally for the Education of young Gentlemen.

THIS Rage for Splendour reigns alike in all the German Courts; from thoſe of which the Heads are qualified with the Title of Majeſty, to thoſe who have aſſumed the Stile of Highneſs, the loweſt that is uſed to any Kind of Sovereign in this Country of Kings and Princes: Moſt of whom ſeem to vie with each other in a Propenſity to Expenſiveneſs, and to think that Grandeur of Appearance conſtitutes Dignity.

IN order to inhance the Worth of this exterior Glare, they have given it an Air of Importance; by ſubjecting it to a ſolemn Ritual, in the Obſervance of which they are ſcrupulous to an amazing Degree.

This ceremonious Spirit preſides over all their Affairs, and even their Diverſions are conducted by it, in a manner which no People leſs cool and phlegmatic could reliſh; but which, among them, is the very Soul of their Paſtimes, as well as of other Tranſactions.

Thus the minute Buſineſs and Forms of a Court, which in England and in France are looked upon as rather tedious and fulſome, are, on the contrary, a moſt pleaſing Occupation in Germany; where every petty Sovereign is charmed with the Solicitude and Exactneſs with which his Attendants perform the various Parts aſſigned them in the little Sphere both he and they have to act in. Small as it may be, there is not the leaſt Omiſſion of any of thoſe Perſonages uſually exhibited in the royal Stages of the principal Courts in Europe; every Office appertaining to which, from a Lord High Steward to the loweſt Menial, is carefully repreſented; and none of the moſt trifling Circumſtances forgotten that amuſe the ſhallow-minded Spectators, and contribute to keep up the Farce and Pedantry of State.

Neither are they leſs ingenious in contriving thoſe Species of Recreations that conſiſt in Shews and Pageantry, of which there is a greater Variety in Germany than in all the reſt of Europe; owing to that irreſiſtible Proneneſs to Parade, and Oſtentation of their Rank and Quality, which the Regulations attending theſe pompous Feſtivals always afford them ample Room to indulge in.

Such are the favourite Purſuits to which Numbers of the German Potentates, if ſuch a Term be applicable to many of them, dedicate no very ſmall a Portion of their Time, and no inconſiderable Share of their Revenues, while in Peace; and even when engaged in War, ſome of them have rather choſen to diminiſh the Number of their Troops, than renounce this fatal Vanity of exterior Greatneſs, however detrimental it might prove to their Affairs. Thus when the Archduke Charles, afterwards Emperor, was on his Progreſs to the Court of England, whoſe Armies and Fleets were waiting to convey him to Spain, (his Succeſſion to the Crown of which Monarchy, our Treaſures were laviſhed in aſſerting) the Expences of the Equipage and Retinue he travelled with, were ſuch as would have maintained an Army. In like Manner, the firſt King of Pruſſia, inſtead of employing his large Revenues in putting himſelf in a Poſture of Defence, on the Approach of Charles the Twelfth of Sweden, of whoſe violent Meaſures he had but too much Reaſon to be apprehenſive, ſtill continued his uſual Courſe of coſtly and needleſs Magnificence; expoſing himſelf thereby to the Inſults and haughty Treatment of that dangerous Neighbour, on whoſe rapid Succeſſes common Prudence might have taught him to keep a watchful Eye.

THIS is no Miſrepreſentation of the Conduct of theſe two Princes; and Germany has afforded many Inſtances of others, whoſe Careleſſneſs and Indolence in their moſt material Concerns, are hardly credible; and who ſeem not to have felt the leaſt Scruple or Remorſe for ſquandering, in the moſt uſeleſs, unaccountable Manner, the far nobleſt Part of their Income; leading, at the ſame Time, a Life of the utmoſt Liſtleſſneſs and Diſſipation; unmindful, and almoſt ignorant of the State of their Affairs, and the Situation of their Subjects; wholly attentive to the moſt frivolous Amuſements; and only careful to reward thoſe who were inſtrumental in procuring them.

There was a Time when Literature flouriſhed uncommonly among the Princes of Germany, more, indeed, than among Perſons of their Rank in any other Country in Chriſtendom. This was during the Period which laſted from the Commencement of the Reformation, till their civil Wars in the laſt Century. As Learning became the Mode among the Great, it naturally met with the higheſt Rewards and Encouragements; the prime Miniſters of thoſe Days were generally Men of eminent Parts, and both they and their Maſters were equally ſolicitous to facilitate and promote the Advancement of Letters and Sciences. Hence the Foundation of ſo many Colleges, Profeſſorſhips, and Libraries, in the Proteſtant Diſtricts eſpecially; the Spoils of which latter, particularly of the famous one at Heidelberg, were deemed Preſents worthy of the See of Rome itſelf, when through the Chance of War, they fell into the Hands of the Romiſh Party.

Since that Æra, a different Spirit has prevailed; and an Application to Study is far from being the ruling Paſſion of moſt of the German Princes, who, though generally not deficient in a Competency of Erudition, have much remitted that Ardour in the Purſuit of it, for which many of their Predeceſſors were ſo noted.

It is neceſſary, however, to except ſeveral, whoſe laudable Addiction to literary Occupations and uſeful Arts, ought to be recorded, as an Incitement to their Equals to follow Precedents ſo reputable and illuſtrious. Such was the celebrated Ulric, Duke of Wolfenbuttel, who compoſed Numbers of ingenious Pieces in his native German, written in a moſt elegant and maſterly Stile. Such was a late Margrave of Baden, whoſe Hours of Relaxation were ſpent in the Attainment of almoſt every Branch of Knowledge conducive to public Utility; and ſuch alſo have been divers others, who have ſhewn themſelves as ſedulous and exemplary in the Improvement of their Minds, as in the more important Duties of their Station. But an Inſtance may be cited which eclipſes all Compariſon, that of the preſent King of Pruſſia; a Man whoſe tranſcendent Abilities in Peace and War, are an Object no leſs of Envy and Terror, than of Admiration; and to whoſe Merits, therefore, complete Juſtice will be done only by Poſterity.

As few Things, however cenſurable, are utterly devoid of ſome Advantage, the univerſal Turn for Pleaſure and Diverſions that prevails throughout the German Courts, has been productive of a Spirit of Affability and Condeſcenſion that renders them highly agreeable to Strangers and Viſitors; the friendly Treatment of whom, if their Profeſſion and Circumſtances be decent and genteel, exceeds any Thing of the Kind in all Europe; and reflects the more Honour on the German Princes and Nobles, as they are accuſed, and not without Reaſon, of valuing themſelves on their Condition and Quality beyond thoſe of all other Nations.

The Abſurdity of this Prejudice is certainly carried to a greater Height in Germany than any where elſe; ſo far, that if a Perſon of princely Birth marries a Lady of a Rank inferior to that of a Counteſs, he gives her

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his left Hand in the nuptial Ceremony; and the Intervention of the Emperor is neceſſary to enable their Poſterity to ſucceed to their Honours and Eſtates; nor can this be done but by formally creating her a Princeſs of the Empire; otherwiſe the Match remains diſgraceful, and the Wife is not even allowed to bear the Huſband's Name.

The ſame Sort of Pride actuates their very Eccleſiaſtics in a Degree unknown in any other Part of Chriſtendom. In moſt of, if not all, their epiſcopal Chapters, and many others, both Male and Female, Proofs of Nobility, and that of no recent Date, are required before Admiſſion. There is even an Abbey of Monks, where the like Qualifications are inſiſted upon from ſuch as are deſirous of becoming Members of the Fraternity; and few of their great Convents, either of Men or Women, will accept of an Abbot, or Abbeſs, the Nobleneſs of whoſe Pedigree is not well aſcertained.

This Haughtineſs of Blood often occaſions very ſerious Altercations, and is not unfrequently ſo fierce and violent, that on public Solemnities, Inſtances have been known of Rivals breaking through all Decorum, and diſturbing the Peace of the Aſſembly, ſooner than make the moſt trifling Conceſſion on either Side. Sometimes it has happened that ſuperior bodily Strength has determined the Conteſt. Thus a Count of Weilburg took Precedence, by main Force, of a Prince of Taxis, whoſe Title, though loftier, was inferior in Point of Antiquity. At other Times, the Deciſion has not been ſo brief, and Competitors have withdrawn to ſettle Matters with the Point of their Swords.

This Thirſt of Pre-eminence accompanies the German Nobility and Gentry, wherever they go; and often engages thoſe among them who are poſſeſſed of Riches, and decorated with the Inſignia of ſome of their knightly Orders, to ſolicit ſuch Employments as will lead them into the different Courts of Europe; where they are very fond of parading on political Pretexts, when they can exhibit themſelves as Perſons of Importance.

No ſmall Tincture of this vain Glory is perceptible in ſome of their Princes and Sovereigns, who not ſeldom indulge a needleſs and expenſive Curioſity in travelling, to ſcarce any other obvious Purpoſe, and probably with no other Intent than to make an empty Diſplay of their Equipage and Retinue.

Notwithstanding theſe erroneous Notions in ſome Parts of their Conduct, and thoſe Failures in their Judgment of Things, of which every Country has its unhappy Share; it muſt be allowed that Germany is the largeſt Field in Europe for an active Genius to move in. The Number of Courts and States where Employment is to be found, and where Men of Capacity are wanted, opens a noble Proſpect to an enterpriſing Spirit, conſcious of its Abilities, and of the Probability of ſucceeding with Perſeverance and Application. As each of theſe Courts places itſelf on a Level of Emulation with every other, whoever can forward their reſpective Views, is ſure of a Welcome; and as, according to the predominant Schemes of thoſe who govern, and the Diverſity of their Purſuits and Deſigns, an adequate Proportion of Talents, equal to the Execution of them, is required, they who poſſeſs them muſt neceſſarily be procured. Hence Germany abounds with Perſons of Excellence in all thoſe Accompliſhments that qualify a Man for civil Government, and military Command; or that enable him to acquit himſelf with Dexterity of all thoſe Commiſſions, which the Multiplicity of Emergencies incident to a Court, is hourly giving Birth to.

Before the two laſt Wars, domeſtic Leiſure and Security had rendered Germany a Scene of the moſt extenſive Encouragement to Men of Ingenuity in all Denominations. Thoſe Arts in particular, that conduce to Magnificence and Embelliſhment, met in no Country with a more generous Support and Recompence. In that Seaſon of Tranquillity, as People were under no Apprehenſions of internal Hoſtilities and Devaſtations, they were able to give full Scope to their Propenſity to Splendor. Thus Architecture, Painting and Sculpture, were eminently patronized; and a prodigious Number of Palaces and noble Edifices erected, and moſt ſumptuouſly adorned during that happy Period, which laſted from the Ceſſation of their civil Troubles in the laſt Age, to the Demiſe of the Emperor Charles the Sixth.

There was hardly any of their Princes, either ſecular or eccleſiaſtical, who did not lay out very conſiderable Sums in the Article of Building, and all its numerous Concomitances. Many of them carried their Paſſion for that then prevalent Mode beyond all Bounds of Moderation, and almoſt Credibility, when we conſider the little Proportion between the Finances and the Undertakings of ſome of them.

Next to Lewis the Fourteenth of France, who, to do him Juſtice, was an illuſtrious Patron of all the fine Arts, no Princes in his Time were more deſerving of Applauſe, in that Reſpect, than thoſe of Germany, Italy, Spain, and even England, which could beſt afford it, imitated him but feebly; while the Sovereigns of Brandenburg, Saxony, Bavaria, and the Palatinate, the laſt eſpecially, by Examples of the moſt princely Munificence to Artiſts of Merit, were animating their Countrymen to give them the moſt liberal Countenance and Reception.

The German Princes live entirely *ſuo quiſque More*, each after his own Way; and excepting the Spirit of Ceremoniouſneſs, in which they all agree, ſeem not in the leaſt inclined to make any particular Sovereign belonging to the Germanic Body, the peculiar Object of their Imitation, how great ſoever his Reputation or Power; this would be an Avowal of his national Preeminence, and a Sort of tacit Homage to it; Conceſſions which their Pride and Loftineſs of Soul render them induſtrious to avoid.

The Models, therefore, they copy after, are uſually fetched from other Countries; and they are very deſirous of being thought the Introductors of any Improvements derived from Abroad. But even in theſe, they are ſtudious to ſtrike out ſuch Marks of Diſparity from the original Pattern, as may ſufficiently ſhew them to be chiefly guided by their own Notions, and to ſtand in no Need of the Produce of foreign Invention; a Talent of which the Germans are fully perſuaded they poſſeſs a more copious Meaſure than any other People whatever.

THE Conſequence of this Frame of Mind is a remarkable Variety in the Humours and Manners of their different Courts, which are very far from reflecting the Image of each other, and in many Inſtances affect as little a Reſemblance as poſſible.

THE ſame Spirit of Independence, either of Example or Influence, is theRule of their private as well as of their public Conduct. They ſteer their own Courſe, regardleſs of that purſued by others; and herein their Fancies, their Whims, and their Paſſions, are principally conſulted; in the Gratification of which they defy all Cenſure, and ſcruple no Expence.

THUS one of them filled his Houſhold with Female Attendants, whoſe Buſineſs it became to perform the Taſk of the Men. Another turned his Reſidence into a Magazine of muſical Inſtruments, and beſtowed Places and Preferments on thoſe who deviſed the moſt curious in their Kind; and of one it is recorded, that he made it a ſtanding Regulation, to oblige thoſe to whom he granted an Audience, to partake of a ſtated Quantity of Liquor with him, before they proceeded to Buſineſs.

A CUSTOM ſimilar to this laſt is pretty current in moſt of the German Courts; where a Viſitor is initiated,

tiated, and in a Manner purchaſes his Freedom, by ſubmitting to drink till he has loſt the Uſe of his Reaſon. This Practice, however, was more prevalent formerly than at preſent, eſpecially at the Palatine Court, when it reſided at Heidelberg; where Bacchanalian Meetings were often held on the Spot adjoining to the famous Tun; the Preſence of which, it ſeems, was calculated to inſpire Ideas of that Tendency.

BUT though Frolicks of this Sort are not ſo frequent as of Yore, they are even now far from being obſolete, in the eccleſiaſtical Courts particularly; from which, while Gallantry muſt, by the Rules of Decorum, be baniſhed; Table-Debauchery is ſo little excluded, that it is carried no where elſe to a more ſhameful Exceſs.

THIS Habit of hard Drinking is a Remain of that ancient Etiquette, if one may ſo term it, which ſubſiſted in the Days of their Anceſtors, at the Time they were ſo manfully reſiſting the Invaſions of the Romans. As the utmoſt Frankneſs and Candour, and a rooted Abhorrence of all Manner of Diſſimulation conſtituted their national Character, and were eſteemed the nobleſt Qualities in human Nature, they took all Precautions to perpetuate ſuch a Spirit, by putting it out of every one's Power to ſwerve from it in any eſſential Matters. For this Reaſon, in their public Aſſemblies, whatever related to State-Affairs was reſerved to be debated after their Souls were elevated with Liquor to a Pitch of Boldneſs and Reſolution, that would ſcorn to admit of any low-minded Thought, any of thoſe timid, feeble

Ideas, which, in their ſober Hours, have ſometimes too much Aſcendancy over Perſons of diſcreet and circumſpectful Diſpoſitions; and engage them to conceal their real Sentiments on Subjects whereon it behoves them to be open, and explicit in the fulleſt Degree, and to exhibit their Minds without the leaſt Diſguiſe.

But in Proceſs of Time, the primitive Intent and Motive of this Indulgence were forgotton; and an Inſtitution which, at firſt, had been attended with the moſt ſalutary Conſequences, was, at laſt, converted into the moſt ignominious Abuſe, and became deſervedly a Reproach to the German Nation, from whence it ſpread to all their Northern Neighbours.

These ſcandalous Compotations were grown ſo cuſtomary in the laſt Century, that even foreign Miniſters and Ambaſſadors were not exempted from paying Tribute to this faſhionable Infamy at their public Reception, as was remarkably experienced by two of our Countrymen, the Lord Leiceſter, in his Embaſſy from Charles the Firſt to the Court of Denmark, and Sir William Temple, when he was ſent by Charles the Second to negotiate a Treaty with the Biſhop of Munſter. Notwithſtanding they were both Men of noted Sobriety, and eminent for their Wiſdom and philoſophical Diſpoſition, no Regard was had to that Part of their Character on this Occaſion; and they were obliged to comply with the eſtabliſhed Rules in their fulleſt Extent.

The ſecular Courts in Germany, though not wholly averſe to theſe Practices, are rather addicted to Gallantry; more indeed, as ſome have aſſerted, to that refined Species which is known by the Name of Platoniſm, than to the leſs pure and innocent. The ſame has been ſaid in Extenuation of Cicisbeiſm in Italy; but if any Credit is to be given to the concurring Teſtimony of diſcerning, impartial Obſervators, theſe Pretences have no Manner of Foundation.

The Court of Dreſden, under the Reign of Frederic Auguſtus, King of Poland, was the Center of the very Reverſe of platonic Paſſions; and few, if any, European Princes were ever ſo notorious in the Variety of their Amours. It muſt however be confeſſed, that he carried them on with an Air of Delicacy and Politeneſs, that threw a Veil over his Irregularities, and rendered them leſs glaring and indecent. The Perſons whom he diſtinguiſhed by his ſeveral Attachments, were all of them as remarkable for their Accompliſhments of Mind, as for their Beauty. His principal Favourite, the Counteſs of Konigſmark, was a Woman of the ſublimeſt Underſtanding, and poſſeſſed of ſo many amiable Qualities, that her perſonal Charms were the leaſt valuable of her numerous Attractions.

His Conduct and Behaviour with the fair Sex was, in all Reſpects, accompanied with a Decorum and Decency, that ſhewed he was far from being indiſcriminate in the Choice of Women, and abandoned to the blind Impulſe of unſentimental Paſſion.

Upon the whole, the Failings of this celebrated Prince were redeemed with his Virtues. His Mildneſs of Temper, his affable Uſage of all who approached him, his Liberality to his Courtiers, his generous Attention to the indigent Youth of genteel Families, for whoſe Education and Support he made a noble academical Foundation, his extenſive Humanity to ſuch of his Subjects as had felt the Calamities of War, theſe, and many other Deeds of Benignity and Munificence, greatly atone for his Foibles. Happy it were if all the Princes who are guilty of theſe, would alſo prove as ſolicitous as he was to counterbalance them by a Parity of meritorious Actions.

Frederic Auguſtus could boaſt of counting among his Subjects the Prime of all the German Nation. The Inhabitants of Saxony have long been eſteemed the moſt ſenſible and ingenious of all their Countrymen; their Capacity is ſo well known, and ſo univerſally avowed, that an Individual of that Part of Germany ſtands a fairer Chance for Promotion on that Account; and is frequently indebted for his Succeſs over Competitors to that Cauſe alone; ſo prevalent is the Opinion entertained by the Public in their Favour.

The Saxons are ſo remarkable for natural Courage, as well as for bodily Stoutneſs and Activity, that the great Guſtavus Adolphus enjoined his Generals to recruit his Armies principally from Saxony. Beſide the Qualities Nature has given them for the Field, they are no leſs noted for thoſe that fit a Man for the moſt arduous Undertakings, either ſtudious or political. They are indefatigable in their Purſuits, and diſplay the moſt laborious Perſeverance in their Application to Arts and Sciences, wherein they have produced the moſt illuſtrious Names of all Germany. Neither are they inferior in the Accompliſhments and Talents that ſecure an agreeable Reception, and prove ſo effectually inſtrumental to Advancement in Courts; a Stage whereon they uſually act their Parts to Admiration; as they are complete Maſters of that Suppleneſs and Condeſcenſion of Behaviour, which gain Partiſans and Well wiſhers, and of that Subtlety and Penetration which turn every Circumſtance to Advantage. To this may be added a Vivacity of Diſpoſition, that peculiariſes them from all the reſt of the Germans, and renders their Society highly acceptable; and by circulating a Spirit of Pleaſure, affords them Occaſions of manifeſting their Wit and Readineſs of Thought, wherein they incomparably excel their Countrymen, as they do alſo in the ſecondary Branches of polite Endowments; ſuch as a Propriety of Taſte for Magnificence in their Apparel, Furniture, Diverſions, and every other Department of Expence; in all which they poſſeſs the valuable Secret of uniting Splendor with Oeconomy.

THE Saxon Women yield in nothing to the Men, and are equally accounted the firſt in Germany. Their Perſons are ſo ſuperiorly charming and preferable in whatever can recommend them to the Notice of Mankind, that the German Youth often viſit Saxony in queſt of Companions for Life. Excluſive of their Beauty and Comelineſs of Appearance, they are brought up in the

Knowledge of all thoſe Arts, both uſeful and ornamental, that are ſo brilliant an Addition to their native Attractions. But what chiefly inhances their Value, and gives it Reality and Duration, is a Sweetneſs of Temper and a Feſtivity of Diſpoſition, that never fail to endear them on a very ſlight Acquaintance. To crown all, they generally become Patterns of conjugal Tenderneſs and Fidelity; and as their natural Frankneſs ſets them above Diſſimulation, they love to the laſt, when once they have beſtowed their Affections.

The perſonal Charms for which the Saxon Women are ſo juſtly celebrated, are likewiſe no ſmall Inducements for the Votaries of Gallantry to give them unrivalled Preference in Quality of Miſtreſſes, a Scene of Life for which ſuch of them as embrace it, are perfectly calculated; as they excel in the Allurements of Dreſs and Decoration, are uſually ſkilful in Muſic; and from their innate Liveline ſs, extremely addicted to all the gay Kind of Amuſements; to ſay nothing of their Facetiouſneſs and Ingenuity, of which moſt Saxon Women have no trifling Share; as they are uncommonly careful to improve their Minds by Reading and inſtructive Converſation.

Far different from this Character is that of the Women in moſt other Parts of Germany, particularly of the Auſtrian, who ſeem to form no imperfect Contraſt to them in moſt Things. Notwithſtanding the Advantages of Size and Make, their Looks and Features, though not unſightly, betray a Vacancy of that Life and Spirit, without which, Beauty is unintereſting;

and like a mere Picture, becomes utterly void of that Indication of Senſibility, which alone can awaken a Delicacy of Feeling. As their Education is conducted by the Rules of the groſſeſt Superſtition, and they are taught little elſe than ſet Forms of Devotion, they arrive to Years of Maturity uninſtructed in the Uſe of their Reaſon, and uſually continue profoundly ignorant the Remainder of their Days, which are ſpent, or rather loitered away in Apathy and indolence. Having learned none of the ingenious Methods of making Time ſit lightly, their Hours of Leiſure, which their Inactivity ſwells to a large Amount, are heavy and oppreſſive; and from their Want of almoſt all Sort of Knowledge, the Subjects of their Diſcourſe are poor and inſipid to a wretched Degree. So irkſome, even to themſelves, is that Kind of Society which conſiſts in a Communication of Thoughts, that Dreſs and Diverſion are the only Refuge from the Tediousneſs which hangs over the general Tenour of their Lives. But whatever they attempt in either ſhews an Abſence of all Taſte and Elegance; ſuch as one may naturally expect from their Poverty, and Barrenneſs of Fancy; and they are obliged to borrow from Abroad all that is tolerable in theſe two Articles.

THE principal Happineſs of the Auſtrian Ladies of Faſhion, conſiſts in ruminating on the Dignity of their Birth and Families; the Antiquity of their Race; the Rank they hold; the Reſpect attached to it; and the Prerogatives they enjoy over the inferior Claſſes, whom they treat with the utmoſt Superciliouſneſs, and hold in the moſt unreaſonable Contempt. In the mean while, their domeſtic Affairs are condemned to the moſt unaccountable Neglect. They dwell at Home, careleſs of what paſſes there, and ſuffer Diſorder and Confuſion to prevail without feeling the leaſt Diſquietude. Great Frequenters of Churches, their Piety is made up of the ſtricteſt Conformity in all the Exteriors of Religion. They profeſs the moſt boundleſs Belief, or rather Credulouſneſs, in all the ſilly Legends with which their Treatiſes of Devotion are filled; and theſe are the only Books they ever read. The Coldneſs of their Conſtitution occaſions a Species of regulated Gallantry, which is rather the Effect of an Opinion that it is an Appendage of high Life, than the Reſult of their natural Inclination.

To make up, however, in ſome Sort, for the Severity of theſe Strictures, it muſt alſo be allowed that the Auſtrian Women are endowed with a great Fund of Sincerity and Candour; and though too much on the Reſerve, and prone to keep an unneceſſary Diſtance, are yet capable of the trueſt Attachment, and always warm and zealous in the Cauſe of thoſe whom they have admitted to their Friendſhip. A peculiar Excellence in their Character, is, that they are utter Strangers to Coquetry, and are frank and ingenuous in all Matters of Love; wherein, when they do engage, their Diſintereſtedneſs and Generoſity are conſpicuous; and, in a great Meaſure, ſupply the Defect of the ſprightly and entertaining Qualifications.

THE People of Auſtria are as little noted for Eminence of Parts as any in all Germany. A Vein of Heavineſs and Torpidity is viſible in all Claſſes, and influences their moſt trivial Proceedings. In no Country whatever will a Traveller find leſs Reſources for Improvement or Pleaſure among the Natives. The lower Tribes are ſo groſs and vulgar, that they may well paſs among the Germans, as the Bœotians did among the ancient Greeks, for the dulleſt of all their Countrymen. Their principal Merit is Simplicity and Downrightneſs; and it were Injuſtice not to allow them an abundant Meaſure of that *Fides Germanica et ſincera*, that ſtaunch German Honeſty, to uſe the Expreſſion of a celebrated Prince of the Empire to an Engliſh Ambaſſador, for which the Generality of their Countrymen are ſo deſervedly renowned.

The higher Ranks are almoſt inacceſſible, unleſs they are addreſſed by Perſons whoſe Titles are adequate to their own. But none are eſteemed ſuch at Vienna, unleſs they are conferred by the Emperor; who being reputed the firſt Sovereign in Chriſtendom, is therefore conſidered by them as the prime Fountain of Honour and Dignity throughout the whole World. Elated by theſe Motives they look upon themſelves as ſuperior to the Nobility of all other Countries, and hold in a ſecondary Light the Diſtinctions proceeding from foreign Courts.

The Pride of ſome Nations who deem themſelves preferable to others, and equal to the moſt illuſtrious, has no unſolid Foundations; and though Vain-Glory deſerves Rebuke, and Modeſty becomes Nations as well as Individuals, yet when famous Names are cited,

and

and celebrated Achievements in the Annals of Peace and War produced in Support of ſuch Pretenſions, the World is ready enough to excuſe a little Exceſs of Boaſting and Preſumption. But when a People utterly void of any of thoſe conſpicuous Qualities on which the Fame and Reputation of a Country depend, is guilty of the abſurd Confidence to aſpire at the Supremacy of Renown, and to believe themſelves reſpectable beyond all others, then, indeed, they fully authoriſe the ſevereſt Confutation of their Impertinence.

Such is preciſely the Caſe of the Auſtrians, whoſe Arrogance in this Particular is unſufferable; and who, with all their Haughtineſs, have no other Right to the Pre-eminence they claim, than that of a Multitude of ſonorous Titles, with which the Bearers are more elevated here than in any other Part of Europe; ſeeming abſolutely to forget by what Means they are often procured, and on whom they are as often beſtowed; and provided they can be obtained, think themſelves juſtifiable in the Opinion they immediately aſſume of their perſonal Merit and Importance, and in undervaluing all who are not diſtinguiſhed by ſome nominal Decoration. Though ſuch an Infatuation is not unknown in other European Courts, it reigns with double Force at the Imperial; where an untitled Man is a Being inadmiſſible among the Great, and cannot challenge the Appellation of a Perſon of Faſhion.

The Grandeur of the Auſtrian Courtiers conſiſts in the moſt ſumptuous Extravagance in their Tables, Equipages, and Retinue; in which they are faithfully copied by their Inferiors, who ſeldom, indeed, can diſcover in the whole of their Conduct, any other Subject of Imitation; and who, like their Superiors, ſeem inſenſible of any other Method of recommending themſelves to public Notice.

THIS is no exaggerated Account of the Notions and Manners of ſuch as compoſe the genteel Claſſes; in whom an aſpiring Temper, and a reſtleſs Thirſt of titular Aggrandiſement, is more diffuſive than among their Equals in any other Country.

IT would be an inequitable Omiſſion however, to paſs over unnoticed the Merits of their military Liſt; a Body of Men who have given ſo many ſignal Proofs of the moſt heroic Courage; and whoſe Aptitude for War yields to that of no People whatever. Yet even here, they have been generally but the Inſtruments of more able Artiſts. Nature ſeems to have formed them rather for Soldiers, than Commanders; and the Houſe of Auſtria has moſtly owed its Advancement, its Grandeur, and its Preſervation, to other Abilities than were found in its native Soil.

BUT ſuch is the Prejudice of the Auſtrians in Favour of their own Character, that it would be dangerous to mention theſe Truths among them. Perſuaded as they are of the Greatneſs of their Genius and Capacity, they would fain aſcribe to theſe the Riſe and Power of their Sovereigns: While, at the ſame Time, the Concurrence of fortunate Accidents is ſo well known throughout the political World, to have been the real Baſis of the Auſtrian Greatneſs, that a celebrated Painter, ſo long ſince as the Days of Charles the Fifth, repreſented Fortune and Hymen bringing to that Prince the Crowns and armorial Enſigns of thoſe Countries, of which his Family had gained the Poſſeſſion by lucky Caſualties, or by Marriage; to which laſt and principal Cauſe of its Proſperity is due the famous Diſtich.

Bella gerant alii, tu, felix Auſtria, nube;
Nam quae Mars aliis, dat tibi Regna Venus.

Let others wage War; thou, happy Auſtria, marry; for Realms, which Mars gives to others, Venus beſtows on thee.

When it is ſaid that Vienna abounds with Princes, Counts, and Barons, little more remains to be told; and they whoſe Motives for viſiting foreign Countries, are either Inſtruction or Curioſity, will do well to ſhorten their Stay here, leſt the Contagion of Haughtineſs and Self-conceit ſhould infect them; Vices which ſeem to be epidemical among Perſons of any Birth or Rank in this Part of Germany.

The State of Literature and Learning is very low at Vienna; and flouriſhes but little in any of the Auſtrian Dominions. The Truth is, that none of the Family have ever been very zealous Patrons of the Muſes, but rather choſe to exert their Warmth in the Propagation of the Romiſh Tenets, to which no Princes were ever more violently and more fatally devoted.

Numberleſs have been the Calamities occaſioned by their religious Perſecutions; and their intemperate Attachment to Popery has more than once expoſed them to the moſt imminent Danger of total Ruin and Deſtruction.

THE proud Spirit of the Houſe of Auſtria has long been proverbial. Notwithſtanding they have ſeveral Times been reduced to the Neceſſity of begging for Aſſiſtance at every Prince's Door, as Bolingbroke emphatically expreſſes it, yet in the midſt of this Humiliation, they have preſerved a Stile of Imperiouſneſs and Arrogance, the more blameable, as it might have proved eſſentially detrimental to their Intereſt, if the Powers with whom they had to deal, had been equally tenacious of Trifles.

THUS when the Emperor Leopold had been reſcued from the moſt deplorable Situation, chiefly by the Treaſures and the Arms of England; and when encouraged and invited by the ſame Power, he had committed to its Truſt and Protection the Hopes and Claims of his Son Charles to the Crown of Spain, he ſtill, in his epiſtolary Correſpondence with the Engliſh Court, retained a ceremonious Air of Superiority, and treated it in the Stile rather of a Sovereign who graciouſly receives the Services juſtly due, and faithfully paid by a loyal, affectionate Subject, than of a needy Ally, whoſe All was at Stake, and whoſe Safety depended on the generous Support of the Potentate he ran the Riſk of offending by this dangerous Diſplay of unſeaſonable Vanity.

It has often been a Matter of Surprize to thoſe who have ſtudied the Temper of the Germans, and are well verſed in their Hiſtory, that a Nation ſo rough, ſo warlike, ſo ſtout, and intrepid, ſhould have ſubmitted to the arbitrary Government that ſo generally prevails in that extenſive Region. In the Time of the Romans, they were the only free People; and from them Freedom ſpread itſelf through Europe on the Ruins of the Roman Empire. But the Wonder ceaſes, when we reflect that the Germans were overcome by Nations deſcended from themſelves; and who, on leaving their native Soil, in order to conquer and ſettle in others, did not degenerate, but preſerved entire the Reſolution and Bravery, as well as the hardy Manners of their Anceſtors, to which by their Mixture with the People, whoſe Subjection to the Romans they had transferred to themſelves, they added thoſe Arts and Improvements which Rome, by its numerous Colonies, had every where introduced.

Thus when Charlemain, the Founder of the Weſtern Empire, undertook to civilize and reduce the Germans under his Obedience, he attacked them with Armies compoſed of Men, not only as valiant and robuſt as they, but better armed and diſciplined; and wholly untainted with that Effeminacy which had been the chief Cauſe of the Romans being formerly overthrown, in ſpite of their ſuperior Knowledge in military Affairs. Yet even with ſuch Men, he found it no eaſy Taſk to ſubdue the Germans, whoſe invincible Attachment to Liberty animated them to the moſt violent and repeated Struggles to maintain it.

In the Courſe of ſucceeding Ages, when Arts and Commerce began to flouriſh, the Memory and Spirit of their ancient Freedom revived by Degrees. Many Cities grew to ſuch a Height of Opulence, and conſequently became ſo ſenſible of their Importance, and manifeſted ſo bold a Determination to purchaſe Independence at any Rate, that partly from pecuniary Conſiderations, partly from the well-grounded Apprehenſion of not being able to aſſert their Authority, Princes thought it prudent to give up their Pretenſions of Sovereignty over them. Theſe Cities, thus emancipated from Tyranny, formed themſelves into Commonwealths, and entered into Leagues for their reciprocal Security and Defence. This gave Riſe to the famous Anſeatic Aſſociation, which became ſo formidable as to command Reſpect from the moſt powerful Monarchs. They continued in this proſperous Situation till about the middle of the ſixteenth Century, when, through Diſunion among themſelves, and the general Confuſion of the Times, a Door was opened for the Renewal of Claims againſt them; which, however, were oppoſed with proper Vigour, tho' too often unſucceſsfully; as after the Diſſolution of their common Alliance, they had ſingly to withſtand the Efforts of each reſpective Pretender. Theſe Diſputes, frequently dropped and reſumed, were not fully terminated till the general Pacification produced by the Treaty of Weſtphalia; when the ſeveral Cities now enjoying Freedom, and ſtiled imperial, were confirmed in the Poſſeſſion of their various Immunities and Privileges, which have been uninterrupted to this Day.

THESE Cities are ſtill numerous, and fuller of Trade and Riches than any others in Germany; and from the greater Abundance of Conveniencies and Accommodations of all Kinds, are many of them Places of general Reſort for the politer Claſſes; eſpecially from thoſe Parts that are under the Dominion of Princes, whoſe Subjects are glad of Opportunities to viſit theſe Seats of Liberty; to which, from the Crowds that often fill them, one may not unfairly conclude that Men are drawn by a natural Attraction, not the leſs ſtrong and cogent for being ſometimes imperceptible and involved with other Motives.

THE Inhabitants of theſe Cities always were, and are ſtill, the moſt eminent for Ingenuity and Induſtry of all their Countrymen. Their Abilities in all Sorts of manual Arts have often ſhone forth with diſtinguiſhed Luſtre; and many of their Merchants have made a capital Figure in the commercial World. If France boaſts a Jaques Coeur, and England a Sir Thomas Greſham, Germany produced a Fugger, whoſe generous Treatment of Charles the Fifth, in the Remittance of the immenſe Sums due to him from that Emperor, was never ſurpaſſed, if ever equalled, by any Subject.

As Recourſe is often had to the rich Burghers of theſe Towns by the indigent Princes, their Neighbours, it is no Wonder if they are proud of their Wealth; and if their Magiſtrates, and patrician Families, are apt to ſhow a Conſciouſneſs of their Weight and Conſequence, which is rather offenſive to thoſe with whom they have Concerns, and ſometimes to Strangers who travel under the Protection of a Title, and are not a little amazed at the ſmall Regard it procures them in ſuch Places.

GERMANY was one of thoſe Countries to which Lewis the Fourteenth of France did eſſential Service by the Expulſion of his Proteſtant Subjects. The Princes of Germany had Senſe enough to receive them with open Arms, and to give them all the Encouragement which Humanity and good Policy could ſuggeſt. As they came not empty-handed, they facilitated every Meaſure taken in their Behalf; and very ſoon moſt amply rewarded their Protectors, by the Introduction of many valuable Branches of lucrative Buſineſs into their Dominions. In a ſhort Time the Aſpect of thoſe Cities and Territories where they ſettled, was totally changed; and a Spirit of beneficial Activity viſibly took Place, of the Tardineſs and Want of Vigour and Skill in the Occupations of Peace, which had been occaſioned by their long domeſtic Diſſentions, and were Evils that required perhaps no leſs uncommon a Remedy to be completely cured.

A MULTITUDE of Perſons eminent in Arms or Literature, and other liberal Accompliſhments, were an Honour to this prodigious Emigration of a People, whoſe Flight from their native Country was influenced by the moſt laudable Motives that can actuate the Souls of Men, thoſe of Conſcience and Religion; of their Sincerity in the Principles of which they undoubtedly gave the moſt illuſtrious and convincing Teſtimonies;

if ſuch may be deemed a voluntary Exile from the Land of their Birth, the Loſs of their Inheritance, and the Deprivation of all Hopes of ever repoſſeſſing or reviſiting what was thus forſaken. Add to this the Uncertainty of their future Fortunes in foreign Parts; the inevitable Difficulties that muſt have accompanied ſo hazardous a Retreat; as the very Diſcovery of their Intentions, and even Wiſhes to attempt it, were ſufficient to render them criminal in the Eye of their Perſecutors, and to ſubject them to the ſevereſt Penalties. But all theſe Conſiderations could not deter them from their Purpoſe. It was but juſt therefore, after manifeſting ſo much Reſolution, and making ſuch Sacrifices, that their Reception every where ſhould be attended with ſo many Proofs of Reſpect and Benevolence from thoſe among whom they choſe the Places of their Refuge.

The Country benefitted moſt by theſe celebrated Exiles was Brandenburgh; the Sovereign of which, at that Time, was the truly great Elector, Frederic William, whoſe heroic Virtues and Abilities laid the Foundation of the ſubſequent Grandeur of his Family. This excellent Prince, whoſe Goodneſs of Heart and Magnanimity of Soul were always prompting him to undertake or encourage whatever could conduce to the Intereſt of the Public, moſt readily embraced this Opportunity of promoting it, and of ſignalizing his munificent Diſpoſition. He afforded accordingly the moſt generous Aſſiſtance to the French Refugees, at the Head of whom was the famous Marſhal Schomberg; for whom, and the principal Gentlemen that accompanied him, he made a moſt liberal Proviſion; appointing

ing him to the ſupreme Command of his Armies, and beſtowing all Manner of Preferments on his Countrymen; whoſe Gratitude and Zeal in the Service of that worthy Prince, and of his Succeſſors, have, on many Occaſions, been highly meritorious.

THESE numerous Colonies of French, thus diſperſed over all Germany, diffuſed a Spirit of Politeneſs and Improvement throughout the Nation, of which it ſtood much in Need at that Period. It had, in a manner, but lately emerged from civil Diſtractions; and the Face of the Land yet bore the Marks of the ſavage Fury that had ſo unrelentingly deſolated its moſt beautiful Cities and Provinces. But this Tranſplantation among them of a People, then the moſt improved of all Europe, quickly rouſed their Endeavours to attain a Degree of Perfection, equal to that of which their new Gueſts were making ſo advantageous a Diſplay in the many Undertakings which the Princes, in whoſe Dominions they had fixed their Abode, intruſted to their ſuperior Abilities.

To this happy Emulation Germany owes the Renewal of her former Splendor, and the Amelioration of the uſeful, as well as of the ornamental Branches of Knowledge and Ingenuity. Many an immenſe, inhoſpitable Tract, never cultivated before, or long neglected, was tilled and made profitable. New Sources of Fertility were diſcovered, by adopting more effectual Methods of Agriculture; and Diſtricts heretofore poor, and almoſt deſtitute of Inhabitants, became remarkable for Riches and Populouſneſs.

Whole Towns were founded and peopled by theſe French Adventurers; and ſome of the principal of the ancient Cities received an additional Splendor from the completer Taſte in Architecture, which they introduced in thoſe Quarters aſſigned them for their Reſidence.

It were endleſs to enumerate the Advantages that accrued to Germany from this Intermixture of its Natives with thoſe of France; the Sprightlineſs of which laſt, gradually blending itſelf with the Solidity of the former, contributed to make them a much more agreeable and engaging People. The Spirit of Society ſucceeded that Solemnity and Reſerve which had ſo long caſt a Gloom over all their mutual Intercourſe. In a few Years ſeveral of the German Courts were allowed, even by the French, to be complete Patterns of polite Feſtivity; and if we except an Attachment to needleſs Formalities, which however exclude not Mirth and good Humour, it cannot be denied that they are perfectly converſant in the Science of elegant Amuſements.

In private Life, Gaiety in Converſation obtained the Aſcendant over convivial Debauchery; and the Enjoyment of Wit and Pleaſure of Diſcourſe were propoſed as the Motives of reciprocal Frequentation, which was ſeaſoned with a Refinement of Breeding hitherto unknown.

Such was the happy Reformation of Manners for which the Germans were indebted to the French;

whoſe Ways and Cuſtoms met with a general Adoption, and whoſe Language grew the favourite one at divers Courts; and was, by no few of their Litterati, ſubſtituted in the Room of the Latin, which alone had long been thought adequate to the Purpoſes of Erudition.

THIS Preference of the French to the Latin Tongue, proved in Courſe of Time a material Step to the Improvement of their own; as it was natural to conclude that it might attain a like Degree of Embelliſhment and Perfection, through the ſame Proportion of Study and Care which had raiſed the Reputation of the other. Hence, in a ſhort Lapſe of Years, the Germans made a great Progreſs in poliſhing and bringing it to a Standard of Elegance, Energy, and Preciſion; and they now can juſtly boaſt of ſeveral Writers of approved Merit, on a Variety of Subjects; to ſay nothing of the excellent Tranſlations they have made of the principal Authors both ancient and modern.

THIS humane Treatment of the French did the more Honour to the Good-Nature, Diſcernment, and Equity of the Germans, as it happened at the very Time that Lewis the Fourteenth was committing thoſe Enormities in the Palatinate, which had rendered him an Object of Execration to all Europe. But the German Princes had too much Senſe and Honour, to confound the Innocent with the Guilty; and ſtill continued their generous Behaviour to his unfortunate Subjects.

In Return for the Tyranny and Barbarities he had exerciſed over the latter, it was but natural theſe ſhould become his moſt violent and implaeable Enemies. Such of them as entered into the military Service of the Powers at War with him, proved, accordingly, the moſt forward and daring on every Occaſion, and inceſſantly ſought Opportunities to glut a Revenge that had ſufficient Cauſe to be boundleſs and inſatiable. This Inveteracy, though venal or ſhallow Writers have had the Audaciouſneſs, or Abſurdity, to reprehend it, the unanimous Voice of the unprejudiced World has moſt loudly juſtified.

Among the many Heroes produced by this Spirit of Reſentment, none ſignalized themſelves more than thoſe who fought under German Banners. They furniſhed the Forces of the Proteſtant Princes with Officers of conſummate Experience and Bravery; ſome of whom diſplayed ſuch uncommon Talents in their Profeſſion, as to be preferred, tho' Strangers, to the Command of Armies. Their Deſcendants bear the ſame Character, and afford ſome of the moſt illuſtrious Generals in Germany at this Day.

Germany was certainly as proper a Country as any the French Proteſtants could have pitched upon for a Retreat from religious Perſecution, on Account of the Lenity and Moderation that prevail there in Affairs of a ſpiritual Nature. No greater Proofs of their reciprocal Toleration can be given, than that ſome of their Cathedral Chapters are compoſed of an equal Number of Proteſtants and Romaniſts; and that even Biſhops are choſen by Turns out of each Perſuaſion. Some of their Princes have carried this happy Temperance of Diſpoſition to a very laudable Height. The firſt King of Pruſſia, took a remarkable Opportunity of teſtifying his Deſire to bring about a cordial Union between the Epiſcopal and Preſbyterian Parties, by appointing two Biſhops, though he was himſelf a Calviniſt, to officiate at his Coronation, and allowing, at the ſame Time, of ſome particular Forms and Ceremonies, but ill agreeing with the Notions of the latter Sect.

It muſt, however, be acknowledged that this Lenity in Church-Matters, though general, is far from being univerſal; and it unhappily remains to be wiſhed, rather than expected, that ſome of them would remit of their Severity againſt the Members of other Communions. Proteſtants and Romaniſts are equally blameable in this Reſpect; but the Tenaciouſneſs of the former in the various Notions that occaſion Miſunderſtandings among them, is often productive of the moſt uncharitable and ſcandalous Treatment of each other, the more criminal, as their Differences of Opinion are on trifling, uneſſential Articles.

Nothing has been more detrimental to the Proteſtant Intereſt than theſe abſurd Altercations about Things of no Importance; and it is much to be lamented, that after ſo nobly ſhaking off the Yoke of Papacy, they did not make it a common Cauſe; and remain firmly united in Friendſhip and Communication of Privileges, for the Safety and Preſervation of their whole Body, againſt the Machinations of a Foe, whoſe Implacability they were ſoon taught by fatal Experience.

The Century preceding that of Luther had already ſhewn what they were to expect who durſt aſſume the Character of Reformers: The Fate of the unfortunate John Huſs, and Jerom of Prague, had given Mankind ſufficient Warning. But the Courage of Luther was Proof againſt all Intimidations. Never was any Man better calculated for the Work he took in Hand, nor knew more properly how to avail himſelf of the Diſreſpect and Averſion which the Proceedings of the See of Rome had ſo deſervedly met with. His Penetration and Diſcernment led him to perceive the Time was come for a more ſucceſsful Oppoſition; and his Reſolution in perſevering, was equal to the Confidence he had ſhewn in commencing ſo dangerous a Taſk. His perſonal Intrepidity was ſuch, that notwithſtanding the Advice of his Friends, inforced by the two dreadful Examples above-mentioned, he ventured himſelf in the midſt of his Enemies; and appeared in the Preſence of the Emperor, and in the Face of the Diet of the whole Germanic Empire, as a Champion ready to aſſert the Goodneſs of his Cauſe againſt all Opponents.

Under ſo undaunted a Head, it was natural the Members ſhould act with Spirit. We find accordingly, that in a little Time the Reformation had made ſo rapid a Progreſs, as to defy the utmoſt Efforts of the papal Party, and to promiſe a ſettled and laſting Proſperity; which, however, was not purchaſed without paying the Price of much Blood, and convincing the Perſecutors of the Proteſtants, by the moſt invincible Reſiſtance, that theſe were determined to ſhed their laſt Drop ſooner than ſubmit.

SINCE the middle of the laſt Century, when the Sword of religious Fury was ſheathed, never, it is reaſonably preſumed, to be drawn again, the Proteſtants have increaſed in Strength and Riches, and conſtitute undoubtedly, at preſent, as reſpectable a Body at leaſt as their Antagoniſts; who cannot pretend to vie with them in the Arts of Induſtry and Commerce; as theſe have in their Poſſeſſion, the principal Imperial Cities, where the chief Trade and Buſineſs of the Empire is carried on, and where a Proſpect of the Liberty prevailing there invites Numbers to ſettle; which daily augments their Wealth and Importance; theſe Acceſſions of Inhabitants being compoſed of Perſons of Property, or of thoſe whoſe Talents are calculated for the Acquiſition of it.

IT is not, in the mean Time, without a jealous Eye, that the Romiſh eccleſiaſtical Princes behold this ſuperior Felicity of a People for whom, whatever their exterior Conduct may appear, they entertain a ſecret Abhorrence, when they recollect what immenſe Poſſeſſions have been torn from them by theſe Upſtarts, as they ſtile, in the Bitterneſs of their Hearts, all who have departed from their Communion.

BUT, if Ambition could be ſatisfied, the Popiſh Clergy in Germany, ſtill retain ſuch a Proportion of

Opulence and Power, as ought entirely to content them.

EXCEPT in the Dominions of the Houſe of Auſtria, the Right of epiſcopal Election is veſted in the Members of the various Chapters; and every Biſhop thus choſen becomes immediately a Sovereign. Some of the fineſt and moſt fertile Countries in all Germany, are the Patrimony of the Church; and beſides the three eccleſiaſtical Electors, whoſe Grandeur and Prerogatives are well known, there are others hardly, if at all, their Inferiors. Moſt of them diſplay a Magnificence equal to that of Kings; and there is not one of them whoſe Revenues are not quite princely. Even the ſecondary Church-Livings are ſo noble and plentiful, that none but Perſons of Birth are deemed worthy of them.

FROM theſe eccleſiaſtical Principalities and Eſtates, are drawn the Funds that ſupport ſo many of the great Families in Germany, and ſo often reſtore to their ancient Splendor ſuch as are gone to Decay. The Promotion to a Mitre amply enables the Wearer to provide moſt liberally for every Relation, however needy or avaricious: and even a Prebend of the middling Sort ſufficiently qualifies the Incumbent to be generous and munificent.

THERE is certainly no Country where the whole Hierarchy, both ſecular and regular, is on ſo beneficial and reſpectable a Footing. The Regard paid even to ſome Female Orders is ſuch, that an Abbeſs of a certain celebrated Abbey in Prague, enjoys the Privilege of crowning the Queen of Bohemia.

Some of theſe clerical Princes affect a very warlike Appearance, and ſeem wholly taken up in military Occupations; as in fortifying their Towns; laying up Magazines and Stores; and making Preparations for the moſt vigorous Defence againſt any Enemy. Others have gone further; ſuch as the celebrated Bernard Van Galen of Munſter, whoſe Turn was entirely martial, and who was, in all Reſpects, much more a General than a Biſhop.

The Conduct and Behaviour of ſuch Men ſhew clearly enough that perſonal Aggrandiſement was the Motive that influenced their Vocation. This, indeed, is the Caſe with moſt of the younger Sons of Sovereign Houſes, among thoſe of the Romiſh Perſuaſion; who have alſo adopted another Piece of Policy, not a little conducive to the ſtrengthening of their Party; and that is, to confer a Number of theſe important Dignities on one Perſon; thereby to collect that Power from their Union, which they could not confer while divided.

The general Spirit of the Government, and Ways of Living in the Courts of theſe eccleſiaſtical Princes, fully demonſtrate that Ambition and worldly Views are uppermoſt in their Attention. Their Adminiſtration is neither more mild nor equitable, than that of the Secular; and their Paſtimes, Gallantry excepted, are much the ſame. They are equally punctilious in their

Claims and Pretenſions, and in aſſerting their moſt trifling Rights and Privileges.

WHATEVER their ruling Paſſion may prove, their Propenſity to indulge it is remarkable. Celibacy exempting them from that Solicitude for Poſterity which often checks an expenſive Diſpoſition, they are apt to be limited by no Bounds but thoſe of their Income; and to impair even this in Purſuit of their Gratifications. Thus to cite one or two Inſtances of Extravagance out of many, ſome have laviſhed their whole Revenues in needleſs Buildings, and Plantations; and others have been ſo ſtrangely addicted to Hunting, as to detriment the Cultivation of the Land, and oppreſs the Country People, for the Sake of enjoying that favourite Diverſion.

FROM this Proneneſs to Syſtems of Life ſo inconſiſtent with the Purport of their Profeſſion, the Romiſh Clergy in Germany are not held in the ſame Degree of Reverence and Veneration as in ſome other Popiſh Countries; and are at preſent too much conſidered in the Light of mere Men of the World, to meet with much implicit Homage and Deference in this diſcerning Age.

IN ancient Times their Influence was ſo great and extenſive, that even Emperors have owed their Exaltation to them. Rodolphus, the firſt Emperor of the Houſe of Auſtria, was elected by Means of his Confeſſor Albert, Biſhop of Ratiſbon. A Service for which ample Returns have been made in the uncommon Reſpect of his Deſcendants for Churchmen, the Zeal they have always manifeſted for their Support and Protection, and the cloſe Adherence to thoſe Maxims of Government, on which their Grandeur is founded.

The Secular Princes of Germany form a Body of Men, not more illuſtrious on Account of their Birth and Family Splendor, than of the many eminent Characters they have produced; whoſe Virtues and great Qualities ſeem, in general, to excite the nobleſt Emulation among them; no Country affording ſuch a numerous Liſt of its Princes, and prime Perſonages in the moſt arduous and hazardous Poſts and Employments.

Though inveſted with unlimited Power, they are ſeldom guilty of arbitrary Proceedings; and Deſpotiſm is certainly leſs exerciſed by the German Sovereigns than by any others. They whoſe Authority is moſt felt, are the petty Princes; whoſe ridiculous Affectation to imitate the greater, induces them ſometimes to ſqueeze the Purſes of their Subjects, beyond the Rules of Moderation. But even among theſe, Examples of ſuch a Depravity are not frequent; and they are, for the moſt Part, content with the ordinary, ſtated Income which Cuſtom and Precedents have eſtabliſhed.

Some of them have given Proofs of an extraordinary Senſe of Honour and Equity in pecuniary Matters. Thus a Margrave of Bareith, in order to diſcharge the Debts of his Predeceſſor, diveſted himſelf, during the Courſe of ſeveral Years, of all courtly Magnificence, and lived almoſt in Obſcurity, in order to huſband his Finances, and compaſs the End he had propoſed without burdening his Subjects.

It has, on the other Hand, been aſſerted, that the German Princes are often very rigorous, and even tyrannical, in exacting unneceſſary Taxes, merely to ſupply their extravagant Expences; and that ſeveral have carried their Inhumanity ſo far, as to puniſh in a moſt unfeeling Manner, thoſe who durſt interfere, without Leave, in their Field Recreations.

But when Regard is had to the great Number of theſe Princes, that no Reſtraint lies in the Way of their Inclinations, and that they are often ſurrounded by Perſons who make it their Buſineſs to deviſe new Modes of Pleaſure and Paſtime, it will rather appear more ſurpriſing, that ſo few of them are guilty of any pernicious Exceſſes, in Compariſon of thoſe whoſe Conduct is upright and worthy of Praiſe,

The Truth is, that ſuch as deviate from theſe laudable Patterns, may, with more Propiety, be noted for Whimſicalneſs in their Diſpoſition, and Irregularity in ſome Part of their Behaviour, than for Severity and Injuſtice in the general Adminiſtration of their Affairs; a Remiſſneſs wherein is uſually the heavieſt Charge that can be alledged againſt them.

No Sovereigns have taken more Pains, and laboured more ſucceſsfully to improve their Country and People, than thoſe of the Houſe of Brandenburgh. A fortunate Succeſſion of three Princes, very different in their

Character, but who were all ſteady in their Purſuits, concurred to fix that State on ſuch a Baſis of good Order and Stability, as have enabled the Prince now on the Throne, to diſplay thoſe Talents which have been the Aſtoniſhment of all Europe. Frederic William, juſtly ſtiled the great Elector, through the whole Courſe of a long and troubleſome Reign, made it his Buſineſs, to infuſe into his Countrymen that martial Spirit ſo neceſſary to a Nation expoſed to the perpetual Hoſtilities of ambitious, enterpriſing Neighbours, and obliged by its Situation to rely chiefly on itſelf for Defence. His Wars, his Victories, and even his Defeats, were glorious. The firſt he always undertook from equitable Motives; the ſecond he commonly obtained with much inferior Forces; and the laſt were accompanied with Proofs of undejected Fortitude, and ſo ſpeedily and ſkilfully repaired, as to become equally uſeful with the former, in the Training and Inſtruction of his Armies.

His Son, though far beneath him in Point of Genius, yet had Prudence enough to follow moſt of his Maxims, and to hearken to thoſe who enforced them; and happily not having the like Difficulties to contend with as his Father, had full Leiſure to attend to that Introduction of the polite Arts, for which his Reign was principally diſtinguiſhed.

His Grandſon ſucceeded at a Time, when it was become highly expedient to correct an improper and ruinous Taſte for boundleſs and injudicious Magnificence. Accordingly he exerted his Talent, which was

Oeconomy, in the moſt ſurpriſing Manner; and ſhewed what great Things might be done with moderate Finances, when wiſely adminiſtered. The Emperor, and the King of France excepted, no European Power kept ſo numerous an Army on Foot; the peculiar Diſcipline of which was the Subject of Diſcourſe and Admiration every where. Notwithſtanding that Independency in the Ways of thinking and acting, of which the German Princes are ſo fond and jealous, the excellent Effects of his ſagacious Ordinances and Regulations, both in civil and military Affairs, could not but engage the Attention of his Cotemporaries, and ſtimulate them to an Imitation of ſuch laudable Meaſures. Hence, during his Reign, Order and Regularity became faſhionable; and many a Prince modelled his Houſhold, his Troops, and his Expences according to what was called the Pruſſian Syſtem; the capital Aim and Tendency of which was, to abſtain from all Profuſion, and to deliver the Subject from oppreſſive Impoſts, by raiſing no more Money than was ſufficient to anſwer the Demands of Government, and, by leaving him the Liberty of enriching himſelf, to lay up Treaſures for the future Exigencies of the State. The Obſervance of theſe Maxims made the Character of this Monarch highly reſpected, and the Situation of his Subjects as eaſy and proſperous, as it can be ſuppoſed to have been under an abſolute Government; to ſay nothing of the beneficial Conſequences that reſulted to the People of thoſe Countries whoſe Severeigns followed the Example of his mild, humane Adminiſtration.

THIS Lenity, in the Exerciſe of his Power, not only proceeded from his natural Inclination, but was alſo founded on the Conviction of its peculiar Neceſſity in Germany; where, by the Contiguouſneſs of each others Dominions, Princes are liable to loſe not only the Affections, but likewiſe the Perſons of their Subjects, in Caſes of Mal-treatment. A Truth too frequently verified by thoſe Emigrations that have left ſome Parts of Germany almoſt deſolate; and which are ſtill the more pernicious, as the Loſs uſually conſiſts of the the moſt enterpriſing and laborious, and therefore the moſt uſeful Members of the Community; none but ſuch having Courage enough to think of encountering the Hardſhips, and Variety of Obſtacles, that ſeldom fail to accompany an Attempt to ſettle in a foreign Country. Experience has conſtantly ſhewn that Emigrators are Men of Induſtry and Perſeverance. Their Conſciouſneſs of theſe Qualifications, is the very Motive that induces them to remove from the Scene of Oppreſſion, in Queſt of that Countenance and Protection, which Talents, and a Diſpoſition to employ them, are ſure of finding in a Land of Equity.

FROM the like Impatience, whether of real or fancied ill Uſage, it as frequently happens that the Nobility and Gentry of Germany forſake their Maſters, in Expectation of ameliorating their Fortune elſewhere. But what is yet more remarkable, they are no leſs ready, without pretending any Cauſe of Complaint, to abandon them on a Proſpect of greater Advantage, without feeling the leaſt Remorſe or Scruple ariſing from any Notions of Fidelity due to the Prince whoſe

Service they quit. In this, they pretty much reſemble the Swiſs; a People irreproachable in every Part of their Conduct, excepting that Indelicacy with which they proſtitute their Valour for the Sake of Gain. Though, indeed, an Apology of ſome Weight occurs in Favour of theſe, when we reflect that the Safety of the Republic, which is unable itſelf to maintain large ſtanding Armies, partly authoriſes this Policy; as from the great Number of their Contrymen in the Pay of more opulent Nations, they are always ſure, on any Emergency, to be ſupplied with experienced Officers and Troops, and thus reap that Advantage of War in a State of profound Peace.

In the ſame Manner Perſons of Ability, throughout Germany, are too much at the Command of the higheſt Bidder; and profeſs very little Attachment to their native Sovereigns, or even to their own Country. Of this the German Princes are ſo thoroughly ſenſible, that they make no Difficulty of beſtowing their Confidence and Favour on any Native of the Empire indiſcriminately; and are very far from reſtricting their Choice to thoſe born within their own Dominions. Many of the principal Perſonages in the different Courts, are abſolutely Strangers in Point of Birth and Family Connections. The celebrated Count Fleming, prime Miniſter to Frederic Auguſtus, King of Poland, and Elector of Saxony, was born a Subject of Brandenburg. And Count Wartemberg, a long Time the Favourite of Frederick, the firſt King of Pruſſia, was a Palatine.

Though ſuch a Syſtem may be favourable to Emulation, in the Improvement and Exertion of Genius and Capacity, yet it extinguiſhes the Spirit of Patriotiſm, by creating an Indifference for Perſons and Places, which ſeldom fails to terminate in Selfiſhneſs and Venality.

Few People abandon their Country with leſs Reluctance than the Germans. Pecuniary Views, religious Perſecutions, and Flights from domeſtic Troubles and Miſeries, have, during the two laſt Centuries, drained Germany of a prodigious Number of its Inhabitants. The lower Claſſes in particular, furniſh a perpetual Supply to the United Provinces; which had long ago, from various Cauſes, been exhauſted, were it not for this unceaſing Influx of foreign Multitudes, whoſe Indigence and Laboriouſneſe rendered them of immediate Utility to that induſtrious and provident State.

Ambition as often leads the better Sort abroad in Search of Honour and Promotion. As they are commonly Men of daring Diſpoſitions, they leave no Methods untried to arrive at the higheſt Preferment; careleſs of the Danger attending the Means of their Exaltation, and reſolutely intent to procure and maintain it at all Events. Thus it was the famous Baron Goerts obtained the Favour of Charles the Twelfth of Sweden; in whoſe Right he governed that Kingdom in ſuch a Manner as coſt him his Life. Thus, in our own Times, the equally noted Baron Neuhoff aſpired at no leſs than a Diadem; the temporary Poſſeſſion of which ſerved only to embitter the Calamities and Diſtreſſes of every Denomination, which that unhappy Gentleman ſeemed, in a Manner, born to encounter.

Others have been more ſucceſsful; and by contenting themſelves with leſs elevated Stations, have enjoyed them with greater Security.

Impartiality requires it to be acknowledged that none of thoſe Princes and States, in whoſe Service they have been employed, have had Cauſe to repent the Truſt repoſed in their Abilities. To mention only one Inſtance, France will never forget its Obligations to the great Marſhal Saxe: the only General who ſuſtained effectually the Reputation of its Arms in the War preceding the laſt.

The Germans poſſeſs, in a peculiar Degree, that highly uſeful Art, in Men of the World, of reconciling a bold and reſolute Spirit with a Pliancy of Temper, and a Suppleneſs of Behaviour, according as their Intereſt requires they ſhould aſſume either of theſe divers Characters. From this peculiar Dexterity in the Management of their Concerns, they derive that Permanency of good Fortune and Succeſs, which attends them ſo remarkably through the Variety of Trials their reſtleſs Purſuits of Grandeur engage them in.

No Country in Europe furniſhes ſo many Examples of Perſons making their way through Difficulties, by Dint of Patience, in waiting for Occaſions to make a timely Uſe of their Abilities. Senſible that theſe are ineffectual without the Intervention of favourable Accidents, they beware of all Hurry and Precipitation; and preſerve themſelves with a calm and compoſed Vigilance, for the Arrival of thoſe Events, without the Co-operation of which the greateſt Capacity muſt fail.

THIS Warineſs and Circumſpection are the principal Baſis whereon the uncommon Proſperity of ſo many Individuals is founded in Germany; where it is far from unuſual to ſee Perſons attain to the ſame Degree of Credit and Power in different Courts ſucceſſively. A convincing Proof of extraordinary Diſcretion and Sagacity in ſuch as are thus fortunate.

NO People, indeed, ſeem better qualified by Nature to effect their Riſe in ſuch Places. They are endued with that Obſtinacy in their Undertakings, which lays no Diſappointments to Heart, and continue unſhaken in their Determinations in ſpite of repeated Diſcouragements. Hence after a long Exertion of Conſtancy, ſhould in any particular Quarter, all their Endeavours prove fruitleſs, and no Probability remain of their meeting with a Reverſe of Fate, as their Inclinations are wedded to no Spot, or Set, they ſhift the Scene, of Action without the leaſt Repugnance, and proceed to a Recommencement of their primitive Plan with unabated Alacrity. In Conſequence of this Undeſpondency, this Vigour of Soul that never loſes Hope, they ſeldom fail to overcome all Obſtacles, and ſoon or late, complete the Execution of their Deſigns.

A Tenacіousness of their original Aims is ſo deeply rooted in their Temper, that when from the Perſuaſion of being endowed with a ſuperior Genius, they have indulged themſelves in the moſt ambitious Proſpects, they are amazingly firm and unremitting in their Efforts, and ſanguine in the Expectations to compaſs their Ends; and what is no leſs obſervable, ſingular and romantic as this Frame of Mind may appear, they generally find their Account in it.

From an equal Concurrence of Pride and Perſéverance in their Schemes, when they have once obtained that Summit of Exaltation they at firſt propoſed, nothing of an inferior rate will ever after ſatisfy them. Sooner than ſubmit to a Degradation, they reſolutely abandon the Scene of their Diſgrace; and wherever their Retreat is fixed, their unconquered Spirit leads them to renew the Exertion of their Parts with undejected Confidence, and thus often to procure a Reiteration of their former Splendor; as it happens not unfrequently in Germany, that the diſcarded Miniſter of one Prince becomes the principal Agent of another.

Most of the German Gentlemen are what the French very pertinently call *Soldats de Fortune*, Soldiers of Fortune, or to ſpeak more properly, Hunters of Preferment. It is therefore no Wonder, if they eagerly watch, and readily ſeize every Opportunity of bettering their Condition. This no Individuals whatever can ſtand a fairer Chance of doing, as they are not difficult to pleaſe, and are willing to accept of any Offer, however ſmall the Lucre, provided the Employment be genteel. Hence it is, the German Armies are ſo full of Perſons of Birth; and that the loweſt military Offices have often been gladly embraced, as the ſole Means of Subſiſtence and Support, by many whoſe Merit has, in Proceſs of Time, raiſed them to the higheſt Dignities.

THE late King of Pruſſia, who was a Man of great Obſervation, in order to encourage this martial Turn in Youths of reputable Families, did two Things of the moſt ſalutary Tendency both to the State and to the Parties concerned. The firſt was to inſtitute in his principal Cities, Academies of Cadets, or young Gentlemen, who were educated at his Expence, and trained up in the Branches of Knowledge requiſite for an Officer. The ſecond was to enjoin each of his Generals, to take under his Patronage and Tuition, ſome Youth well deſcended, but of ſlender Means, and to qualify him in the compleateſt Manner for the future Service of his Prince and Country.

A NARROWNESS of Circumſtances often attends not only moſt of the German Nobility and Gentry, but even not a few of their petty Princes; who are ſometimes driven to the ſame Shifts to maintain their State and Grandeur, and perhaps to mend the Breaches in their Income, occaſioned by the Extravagance of their Predeceſſors, or their own, as inferior Individuals are obliged to have Recourſe to, in order to preſerve their Credit, or repair their ſhattered Fortunes. Thus Alienations and Mortages are no very rare Tranſactions in ſome of theſe Courts: Hence too, that grand Reſtorer of diſordered Affairs, a wealthy Bride, is ſought after with no little Solicitude. Though Germanic Pride will not ſtoop to one of ignoble Origin, yet they who are penurious will, in Favour of an ample Dowry, act with extraordinary Condeſcenſion, and gloſs over many Conſiderations that would appear very offenſive to their Haughtineſs, if they were in a Condition to indulge it. Even to thoſe who are in Affluence a rich Wife is no indifferent Object; and few German Princes, if any, care to marry without a large Portion.

If Sovereigns are led by ſuch Motives, well may their principal Subjects follow the Example; and this is done accordingly in the fulleſt Latitude. As theſe are not bound by the ſame Reſtrictions, their Choice has a larger Field to range in. They readily, therefore, and ſeldom unſucceſsfully, pay their Addreſſes to the opulent Heireſſes in the commercial Claſſes, who ſeem in Germany leſs apt, than elſewhere, to reject the Suit of a Man adorned with honourable Appellations. Yet ſuch is the Prepoſſeſſion in Favour of Deſcent and Pedigree, that notwithſtanding the Wife of a Man under the Degree of a Prince, though beneath him in Point of Birth, is allowed to bear his Title, ſhe muſt lay it to her Account, if her Parentage is obſcure, to meet with endleſs Slights, and Mortifications from the Ladies who happen to be better born. This ill-natured Arrogance is often carried ſo far as to refuſe her Admittance in their Circles and Aſſemblies, to ſhun her very Acquaintance, and even to deny her the common Civilities of Salutation, and polite Notice in any accidental Intercourſe.

THIS Haughtineſs is an incurable Diſeaſe in moſt Parts of Germany; where a Perſon's Merit ſeldom gets the better of his Want of illuſtrious Blood, in the Minds of the Generality. Not only the Vulgar, but alſo the more decent Claſſes are entirely tamed into a mean ſpirited Reverence of their Superiors for this accidental Advantage. Even Wealth itſelf muſt not pretend to enter the Liſts of Competition with it. And the moſt conſiderable Merchant is an Individual of ſmall Importance among thoſe whoſe Names are graced with ſome titulary Appendage; from the gilded Premier, who baſks in the Sunſhine of Favour, to the needy Gentleman who bears Indigence patiently, in Hopes of Preferment, and regularly attends at the Diſtribution of his Maſter's Forage. A Practice that ſufficiently ſhews the Poverty of thoſe who accept of ſuch a Donation.

WELL may theſe, however, comfort themſelves with Expectations of riſing in their Turn, as it has been occaſionally among them that Princes, in ſome of their capricious Fits, have choſen their Favourites. Neither need any of their Courtiers be apprehenſive of a Deficiency of Talents, to fill adequately ſo brilliant a Poſt; as a Dexterity in Horſemanſhip, the Uſe of Arms, or ſome other Accompliſhment of that Stamp, or even of an inferior Kind, ſuch as Cheſs, Cards, or Dice, has more than once attracted the Notice, and procured the Benevolence of a Sovereign, and proved of more Efficacy in the Advancement of their Fortunes than the moſt valuable Qualifications would in all Likelihood have done.

Thus by playing ſkilfully at Cheſs, one Kamk inſinuated himſelf into the good Graces of Frederic, the firſt King of Pruſſia. This Monarch, whoſe inconſtant Diſpoſition induced him to appoint and diſmiſs his Miniſters without much Difficulty, was ſo captivated with this new Favourite, that he diſcarded an old Servant, on very ſlight Pretences, in order to give his Employments to the former.

In much the ſame Manner had the Conſtable of Luines, the Minion of Lewis the Thirteenth of France, made his way to Greatneſs by his complete Skill in Sportmanſhip, and by initiating his Maſter in the Diverſions of the Field.

Such Paſſages remind one of the Story of a Turkiſh Emperor, who conferred an eminent Poſt on one of his Gardeners, to reward his Dexterity in planting Cabbages.

Though Inſtances of this Species of Folly are not, as it appears, unknown elſewhere, yet they are much more frequent in Germany; from the Multiplicity of odd Characters in a Country where Sovereigns abound, many of whom render themſelves remarkable through a Fondneſs and Affectation of Singularities.

Sovereignty meets no where with more Deference and Veneration than in Germany. The Natives of that extenſive Empire, hold it an Honour and Happineſs to belong to the Service of any of their Princes; and all whoſe Condition, Means, or Capacity, are above the common Level, endeavour to recommend themſelves to their Attention and Eſteem, in order to obtain a Share of Truſt in their Concerns. Herein the Germans ſympathize greatly with the French, moſt of whom that are able to purchaſe or procure it, are very deſirous of being diſtinguiſhed by exerciſing ſome Function at Court.

THE inferior Claſſes in Germany, though far from deficient in ſolid, ſubſtantial Senſe, are yet, in many Reſpects, what the French have juſtly enough ſtiled them, *Epais et Materiels*, dull and heavy. Their Intercourſe has little or nothing of that intellectual Feſtivity, which, in ſome other Nations, is the very Life of ſocial Meetings. The uſual Subjects of their Converſation, are the Reſult of the current Buſineſs of the Day, and turn too much on thoſe Incidents that ariſe from the Speaker's Profeſſion, to afford any Entertainment to ſuch as have no Connections with it. Topics of this Nature, accompanied with the moſt plentiful Compotations, generally conſtitute their Paſtimes.

THIS Cuſtom of exceſſive carouſing, was formerly thought conducive to a much better Purpoſe than merely to procure Jollity and Mirth to the Living only. The Dead alſo were imagined to receive ſome Advantage thereby; an Opinion that was current in certain Diſtricts of Germany not many Centuries ago.

STRANGE Conceits and Practices have prevailed, not only among the rude and barbarous, but even the moſt enlightened Nations. Some of the moſt civilized

People of old uſed to bring forth, in their convivial Merriments, the Images of their deceaſed Friends, by way of commemorating the Joys they had formerly partaken in their Company. The Aborigines of America, at this Day, go much further; and produce the very Carcaſſes and Skeletons of their departed Relations and Familiars, in the ſolemn Feaſts and Feſtivals which are publicly held in order to perpetuate their Remembrance. In ſome Parts of Spain, they conclude Interments with a Refreſhment, and a Song, the Burden of which is *viva el Muerto*, long live the Dead. There are alſo particular Days and Occaſions in England, whereon we drink to the Memory of celebrated Names. It remained for the Germans to adopt the Notion, that the Dead could derive any Benefit from a copious Conſumption of Liquor by the Living.

THE politer Sort are not much leſs guilty of Intemperance in their Cups than the lower; a Vice, without Exaggeration, univerſal among all Conditions, and Degrees. Both Laity and Clergy are equally addicted to it; and even the Literati, who in other Countries are profeſſed Votaries of Sobriety, cannot, in this drinking Region, reſiſt the Torrent of Example.

THESE latter form a numerous Body in Germany; where that Species of Literature, which conſiſts in a ſuperficial Acquaintance with, and inelegant Uſe of the Latin Tongue, is common and diffuſed throughout the loweſt Stations.

The Fact is that Germany in a manner, is over-run with what the World is uſually pleaſed to term Scholars; moſt of whom would certainly have made a much better Figure in any other Situation whatever. This proceeds from the Facility of receiving a claſſical Education, and the Difficulty of applying to any Calling of a different Caſt, after having expended the prime of Life in academical Studies, and contracted, through Length of Time, that peculiar Habit of Mind they occaſion. Hence no Country is more largely ſtocked with Authors, or rather Dealers in bookiſh Knowledge; Men, whoſe voluminous Compilations may not improperly be conſidered as immenſe Magazines of Erudition, collected by them for the Uſe of Perſons of Genius, as Labourers prepare Materials to be employed under the Direction of Artiſts.

Among theſe prodigious Collections, none make a more conſiderable Appearance than their Law-Tracts; which, from the immenſe Variety of Regulations that have neceſſarily taken place in a Country where there are ſo many Sovereigns, and States entitled to frame them, muſt unavoidably compoſe a *formidabile Corpus Juris*, a tremendous Body of Laws; and furniſh a World of Study and Occupation for Lawyers, a moſt lucrative Branch of Buſineſs in Germany, where every Prince and independent City, are moſt perſeveringly watchful and jealous of their innumerable Rights, Privileges, and Prerogatives; to ſupport the moſt trivial of which, (and theſe are not few) as well as the moſt material, no Litigation is eſteemed too tedious or expenſive.

Till within this Century, there were many among the Germans, in other Reſpects no contemptible Scholars, who entered deep into cabaliſtical Speculations. Some ſeriouſly ſtudied judicial Aſtrology. Others firmly believed the Exiſtence of Genii, as well as the frequency of Apparitions. Of late Years a very extraordinary Opinion was broached, and learnedly maintained by ſome of the remaining Members of theſe credulous Fraternities, which was that the Dead ſometimes came out of their Graves to ſuck the Blood of the Living. This ridiculous Idea, which poſſibly was occaſioned by the Diſorder called the Incubus or Nightmare, found its way into the neighbouring Countries, and it is almoſt incredible what a Number of elaborate Diſſertations it occaſioned.

And yet, notwithſtanding this Readineſs and Warmth in adopting idle Notions, the Germans are eſteemed much leſs tenacious and obſtinate in ſpiritual Matters than formerly. It has even been ſaid that, in ſome Places, a young Woman is now told, on her Marriage with a Man of a different Perſuaſion from that wherein ſhe has been educated, that henceforth ſhe muſt conform to the Religion of her Huſband; as if it were a Thing of no Conſequence which of the two was profeſſed.

But if there is really ſo much Freedom and Latitude in the Ways of Thinking of ſome People in Germany, it is certain on the other hand, that Superſtition is far from being on the Decline every where.

The Devotion to the Hoſt in the Dominions of the Houſe of Auſtria, is the more fervent, as the Princes of that Family are thought by their good Subjects, to owe their temporal Aggrandiſement to their Piety in this Reſpect; many Inſtances of which are cited with great Applauſe, eſpecially that of Rodolphus, the firſt who attained to the Imperial Dignity; concerning whom Tradition ſays, that while Count of Hapſburgh only, meeting with a Prieſt on Foot, who was carrying the Viaticum to a ſick Perſon, he alighted, and made him mount: It is added, that the Prieſt, prophetically inſpired, predicted to him, as a Reward of this pious Action, his future Grandeur and that of his Deſcendants. This Story is often in the Mouth of the devout Well-wiſhers to the Auſtrian Line, and Pictures of it are frequent both in places of Worſhip and in private Dwellings. The Example of this Emperor has often been followed by ſeveral of his Poſterity, as well as by other Romiſh Sovereigns, to the great Edification of their People.

In Bohemia, one of the principal Dependencies of this Family, and where its religious Zeal has been not a little experienced, a Saint is lately ſtarted up, that makes as great a Figure at Prague, as our Thomas of Becket did of old at Canterbury; and who works Miracles enough to compoſe a very curious Legend. His Name is Nepomuc, and he bids fair, by the rich Preſents he receives from all Quarters in that Kingdom, to become in Time as wealthy as the Madonna of Loretto.

NEITHER is Germany wanting in miraculous Images of this laſt, nor in Relicks of the moſt extraordinary Kind; ſuch as the Remains of the three Kings at Cologne; and that rare Aſſemblage of ſacred Curioſities at Aix, which at certain Periods, draws ſo vaſt a Concourſe of Pilgrims from the remoteſt Parts of Germany: To ſay nothing of the wonderful Conſecration of the Cathedral of that City, at which Saints aroſe from their Tombs to aſſiſt, according to Accounts reputed authentick by Multitudes; nor of the Sword of State brought from Heaven to Charlemain, and carefully preſerved among the Imperial Regalia to this Day.

MANY further Arguments of their Bigotry might be enumerated; ſuch as a celebrated Chapel, ſomewhere in the Auſtrian Diſtricts, endowed with ſo many ſpiritual Privileges, that a ſingle Maſs ſaid in it, is ſufficient to deliver a Soul from Purgatory: Not to forget their Torches of lighted Wood, bleſſed and carried about as Preſervatives againſt Fire and Lightening; nor their ridiculouſly pious Salutations of each other at certain annual Feſtivals; to which, it is not ſo amazing that Indulgences ſhould alſo be annexed, conſidering how cheaply they are obtained, as that ſo ſenſible a Man, as Pope Clement the Eleventh, ſhould have been their Inſtitutor.

THE Patronage of many Saints is a no leſs remarkable Peculiarity among thoſe of the Romiſh Communion in Germany; whoſe Belief and Truſt in the ſupernatural Influence of theſe inviſible Agents, induces them to claim their Protection, by aſſuming a Number of their Names. Thus it is not uncommon for an Individual to have ten or a dozen; the feſtal Days of which he ſolemnizes with great Punctuality, and loſes no Opportunities to teſtify his Reſpect for thoſe Inhabitants of Heaven, whoſe Intereſt, in Return, he not a little relies on, in the Proſecution of all his Affairs both ſpiritual and temporal; as often, perhaps, applying to them for their Guidance and Inſpiration of proper Meaſures in the latter as in the former.

Some have thought this ſuppoſed Communication between Mankind and the Spirits of ſuch as are deemed in the Poſſeſſion of a happier Exiſtence, a Notion highly deſerving of Encouragement; as a Man, from the leſs Degree of Dread and Awe he feels for theſe inferior Beings, will probably have the more frequent Recourſe to them, and in Conſequence, make their Lives and Actions his Study, and the Patterns of his Imitation. But they who argue in this Manner, may, with great Truth, be anſwered, that an improper, and often diſreſpectful Familiarity attends the Behaviour of the Client to his Patrons, in his perpetual Demand of their Aſſiſtance, not unfrequently on the moſt trivial, and poſſibly unwarrantable Occaſions. That this imaginary Intercourſe creates and cheriſhes a Supineneſs and Indolence in the eſſential Concerns of Religion; by inducing us to pay leſs Attention to its moſt material and important Precepts, than to the trifling Duties we impoſe on ourſelves, by Way of ſecuring the Favour of thoſe whom we have been taught to conſider in the Light of Protectors; the ſcrupulous Exactneſs that uſually accompanies the Obſervance of theſe contemptible Injunctions, ſeldom failing to abate our Aſſiduity and Zeal in the Diſcharge of more weighty Obligations.

In this Article of their Devotion, the Germans acquit themſelves with the moſt ridiculous Fervour; and are apt to expreſs the moſt ſtupid Reſpect and Fondneſs for thoſe innumerable Repreſentations of celeſtial Aſſiſtants to Mankind, with which their Churches, their Houſes, and their Prayer-Books are filled. Some even go further; and, as a Token of their entire Attachment and Predilection, wear the Picture of their Favourite Saint, appendant to their Neck, or faſtened to a Button-Hole, like ſome of the foreign Orders of Knighthood. Even the better Sort are not guiltleſs of theſe Fooleries; which, notwithſtanding the Intermixture and Toleration of Proteſtants in Germany, are often carried to the ſame Degree of Abſurdity, as in the moſt bigoted Romiſh Countries.

To this Exceſs of Superſtition in the Invocation of Saints, one may add their notorious Suſceptibility of Belief in all thoſe pious Forgeries calculated by Men of more Simplicity than Wiſdom, to ſerve religious Purpoſes; but which, in Reality, are only proper to excite Laughter and Deriſion. Thus, among other ſilly Tales, that of Hatto, Biſhop of Mentz, reported, for his Cruelty to the Poor, to have been devoured by Rats, is aſſerted, by many, with a Poſitiveneſs that cannot brook the leaſt Contradiction or doubt of the fact. The Expulſion of that Vermin from a certain Province, by a Relation of St. Hubert, is held equally unqueſtionable.

CREDULITY, however, ſeems epidemical in Germany: Even in Brandenburgh, a Proteſtant Country, the Ghoſt of an old Woman, who was diſobliged by an Elector of that Houſe, ſome Centuries ago, has, they ſay, infeſted his Poſterity ever ſince; and uſually haunts their Palaces by Way of Signal on their approaching Deaths. This abſurd Notion is treated with more Seriouſneſs than one would be apt to imagine; and it is well known, the Death of the firſt King of Pruſſia was haſtened by a ſudden Fright, occaſioned by the Sight, as he for the Moment thought, of an Apparition clad in White, (the Phantom's reputed Habit) and which proved to be his Queen; whoſe Mind was diſordered, and who burſt into his Apartment, and waked him with great Roughneſs and Violence, as he ſat ſlumbering in a Chair.

THE Truth is, notwithſtanding that phlegmatic Diſpoſition which preſerves the Germans from being eaſily impoſed upon in the common Occurrences of Life, and which one might reaſonably ſuppoſe would have the like Effect on other Emergencies, they ſtill harbour a ſurpriſing Willingneſs to admit the Probability of extraordinary and marvellous Events.

FROM this Fund of Abſurdity, they derive an Aptitude to indulge in the moſt whimſical, extravagant Conceits; and ſuch as betray a Wildneſs and Incoherency of Thought that border upon Folly. Witneſs that Inſtitution of Friars, during the laſt Century, who are obliged by their Statutes, not only to depend for Subſiſtence on public Generoſity without ſoliciting it, as other mendicant Orders are allowed to do, but even, in Caſes of the utmoſt Want, to wait three entire Days before they give Notice of their Diſtreſs.

Germany is, indeed, in many Reſpects, the Seat of the Empire of Fancy. There is no Country wherein its various Inconſiſtencies are ſo fully exhibited. Prejudices of the moſt prepoſterous Nature infect the Minds of the Natives, according as their Syſtems of Government happen to differ; and a ſenſeleſs, ſelfiſh Spirit of Pride and Partiality, dictates on either Side their Judgments of Men and Things. In thoſe Places where Princes rule, and Nobility abounds, nothing elſe is prized; Trades and the reputable Occupations of civil Life are held in Contempt; and even Magiſtracy itſelf is looked upon as diſgraceful. As Employments merely lucrative muſt not, under Pain of Degradation, be accepted by Perſons of Birth, theſe have, in order to comfort themſelves for ſo mortifying an Excluſion, fixed a Mark of Infamy on every Kind of Buſineſs that may be exerciſed by what they call a Man of no Birth.

This Pride of Blood, and Value of Anceſtry, is ſo inconceivably rooted in the Character of ſome Courts, that in the Rewards they beſtow, and the Diſtinctions they confer on Individuals, their Origin often preſcribes the Meaſure of the firſt, and ſettles the Degree of the laſt; and by the whole Tenour of their Proceedings in theſe Matters, they ſeem fully perſuaded that Merit cannot be complete, unleſs its Owner is honourably deſcended. Thus, when the Emperor Leopold created the Duke of Marlborough Prince of the Empire, his noble Pedigree was carefully mentioned in the Patent, as a conſiderable Inducement; though certainly his Actions were ſufficiently illuſtrious to eclipſe all other Motives.

If the German Grandees are, on the one hand, infatuated with the Ideas of Dignity annexed to their Rank, there is on the other, a Claſs of People, who, in a very oppoſite Station of Life, entertain equal Notions of their own Importance, and, ſtrange to tell, theſe are the Peaſants of ſome of thoſe happy Diſtricts appertaining to the Imperial Cities; or which, though acknowledging the Sovereignty over them of ſome Prince, have yet found Means to retain ſuch Privileges and Franchiſes as enable them to eſcape Oppreſſion, and enjoy the Fruits of their Labour. Theſe are a Tribe of Mortals who affect to be the very reverſe of thoſe haughty-minded Nobles; and profeſs no Eſteem for any but pecuniary Merit. Thus the Drift of their whole Lives is much leſs to enjoy, than amaſs, immenſe Hoards of Money, of which they make a moſt ample Parade, whenever they find themſelves in the Preſence or Hearing of Title-Bearers, the Poverty of whoſe Finances forms but a ſorry Contraſt to their high Pretenſions. Theſe are the perpetual Butts of their Sarcaſms, and undergo the moſt unmerciful Trials of Patience, whenever ill Luck condemns them to have any Intercourſe with theſe opulent and preſumptuous Ruſtics; whoſe unaccountable Vanity, and aſtoniſhing Prepoſſeſſion in Favour of their intrinſic Worth, is ſuch, as to eſteem it an Indignity to their Character, to enter into any Family Alliances out of the Pale of their own Condition. Hence, they all intermarry in order to preſerve the Breed unmixed, remain on a Level with each other, and tranſmit to their Deſcendants, together with their Fortunes (which are generally very conſiderable, and centre by theſe Means intirely among themſelves) no other Kind of Funds, from whence to derive any Conſideration.

Far different from theſe are the Boors in moſt Parts of Germany; the deſpicable Servility of whoſe Deportment ſtrongly evinces the wretched Depreſſion of Mind that is the Conſequence of extreme Servitude. So humbly, not to ſay contemptibly, do they think of themſelves, that on the leaſt verbal Intercourſe with their Maſters, or any one their Superior, they ſtudy, as it were, to expreſs the deepeſt Senſe of their Inferiority, by the moſt ſubmiſſive Abjectneſs in their perſonal Demeanor.

This Self-Humiliation is no ungrateful Offering to the Superciliouſneſs and Arrogance for which ſo many of the German Nobility and Gentry are unhappily noted. Too many of them, indeed, treat theſe loweſt of their Dependants with the moſt unremitting Severity, and by chaſtiſing them unreaſonably for the ſlighteſt Faults, have hardened and ſtupified their Bodies and Minds to ſuch a Degree, and ſo much accuſtomed them to an Expectation of this mercileſs Uſage, as to have rendered them inſenſible to all other Motives for Obedience, but ſuch as are enforced with Ill-nature and Cruelty.

While the Grandees indulge themſelves in this Tyranny over their Vaſſals, they are not undeſervedly puniſhed for it in the boundleſs Deference, and unreſerved Compliance which they who mean to riſe into Favour, are obliged to profeſs for the Will and Pleaſure of their Sovereigns; who though abundantly civil, and even condeſcending in their Behaviour, ſtill remember their Power is abſolute, and are apt enough to exert, occaſionally, a great deal of Arbitrarineſs. However inſignificant in Point of Dominion, they expect as much Homage and implicit Obedience, as the greateſt Potentates, and are no leſs imperious in exacting the moſt unlimited Acquieſcence and Complaiſance, in whatever conduces to gratify their Diſpoſition and Humour.

A late Prince in Germany carried his Capriciouſneſs, in this Reſpect, ſo far as to betray the moſt unaccountable Antipathy to whatever might create him the leaſt Uneaſineſs. This Foible was ſo well known, and the Effects of it ſo much apprehended by all who approached him, that none but his Jeſter (a Species of Beings ſtill ſubſiſting in ſome of the German Courts) durſt aſſume the Liberty of conveying to his Knowledge any diſagreeable News; and this he was forced to do in the moſt cautious and guarded Manner, and rather by Way of Pleaſantry than Information.

This Anecdote is ſimilar to what is recorded of a King of France, Philip the Fifth, who grew ſo outrageous at the many Defeats of his Armies by the Engliſh, in the Reign of our Edward the Third, his Competitor for the Crown, that none but the Perſon who bore the afore-mentioned Office in his Court, would venture to bring him any ſuch Kind of Intelligence.

Lewis the Fourteenth, though not deficient in that Courage of Mind which ſupports ill Fortune, without deſponding, had yet ſome Tincture of this Weakneſs; and when the Battle of Blenheim had reduced his Affairs to that unproſperous Condition, from which they never recovered, all his Courtiers were ſilent, and only Madam de Maintenon, his Wife, had ſufficient Reſolution to diſcloſe the fatal Event.

The tame and paſſive Submiſſion of the Germans to their Princes, is the more deſerving of Notice, as nothing is more repugnant to their natural Inclination than to make any Sort of Conceſſions. Unleſs reſtrained by Proſpects of Intereſt or Ambition, no People are leſs tolerant, and more averſe to put up with Affronts and Indignities, nor readier to take Offence at the ſmalleſt Provocations. Their Reſentment is oftentimes ſo unjuſtifiable, and even ridiculous, that their Neighbours the French, (who to do them Juſtice, are not over patient when they think themſelves inſulted) have ſubjected this Punctilioufneſs in aſſerting their Honour to a proverbial Deriſion of long ſtanding; a *Querelle d'Allemand*, a German Quarrel, is an Expreſſion which has been uſed for many Centuries to ſignify a ſerious falling out for Trifles.

The Suppreſſion of this reſtive, unpliant Temper, is remarkable in the German Armies; where a pacific Subordination reigns between the upper and lower

Claſſes of Officers, the more exemplary, as the domineering Spirit of the former is often very galling and oppreſſive to their Inferiors. But a German receives from Nature a Command over his Paſſions that empowers him to ſtifle them, whenever his Welfare requires their Concealment; and endues him, at the ſame Time, with a cool, phlegmatic Perſeverance, that enables him to keep his Point ſteadily in View, and give up thoſe Conſiderations that would make him deviate from the Track, by perſiſting in which, he expects to ſucceed.

This reſolute Conſtancy accompanying them on all Occaſions, is particularly uſeful in producing that unſhaken Adherence to their primitive Purſuits; which aſſiſted by the habitual Ingenuity reſulting from continual Application, effects the ſure, however ſlow Progreſs, the Germans never fail to make in thoſe Undertakings, the Succeſs of which depends chiefly on Aſſiduity. Their Genius is like a rich, but coarſe and tough Soil, which demands the moſt laborious Cultivation. Their Capacity lies too deep for a ſuperficial Degree of Care and Inſtruction, to bring it forward to Maturity; but when the requiſite Meaſure of Pains and Attention is beſtowed, a moſt ample Recompence accrues to the Poſſeſſor.

Hence they equal, if not exceed, all Nations in thoſe intellectual Acquiſitions, which Length of Time, and Obſtinacy of Toil, are alone able to compaſs. Their Proficiency in various Languages is, for Inſtance, aſtoniſhing; an admirable Competency of Skill in three or four, and ſometimes a greater Number, is an Accompliſhment far from unuſual in Germany.

They make no leſs eminent a Figure in thoſe Occupations and Studies, a long Continuance wherein will, of Courſe, lead a penetrative and prying Mind to Diſcoveries. In all the Branches of experimental Philoſophy, and mathematical Knowledge, their Merit is unqueſtionable; and in mechanical Inventions, they were famous a conſiderable Time before the Engliſh and French: Among many others, we are indebted to them for the noble Art of Printing. Even ſo remotely as the fourteenth Century, an Age of general Darkneſs, they applied themſelves to Inquiries into the Secrets of Nature. Witneſs that ſurpriſing one of the Uſe and Effects of Gunpowder, which they firſt communicated to the European World, though indeed, the Merit of finding out the Compoſition itſelf, has lately been diſputed them in a very learned and ingenious Publication.

In this Period of univerſal Improvement, their Talents and Dexterity are held in the higheſt Eſteem, and the Fabricks of their trading Cities continue in the moſt diffuſive Requeſt, both in their own, and all the adjacent Countries.

Many of theſe owe the Civilization of their Manners, and the Eſtabliſhment of the polite Arts among them, to the Germans; whoſe Example preſcribes whatever relates to Cuſtoms and Faſhions throughout the North, with no leſs Authority than France dictates in theſe Articles to the Southern Parts of Europe.

But there is a material Difference between the Opinion theſe entertain of the French, and that which the former manifeſt in favour of the Germans. The latter, from the Downrightneſs and Candour of their Diſpoſition, meet with the moſt gracious Acceptance of their Services, and are honoured with the moſt diſtinguiſhed Employments in every Court. That of the great Czar Peter, and his Armies, were full of Germans. Other Sovereigns have ſhewn them equal Countenance, and their Credit is on the ſame illuſtrious Footing as ever.

But the Credit of the French, notwithſtanding their Abilities, is much inferior. The Dread of that Spirit of Intrigue, and Addreſs in exerting it, which characteriſes them wherever they go, proves an inſuperable Bar to their Advancement to any Poſt of great Truſt in foreign Countries; where the Influence they ſometimes gain, is almoſt always poſſeſſed in ſecret; as they are conſcious of the general Diſſatisfaction it would give, from the Knowledge of their meddling, reſtleſs Diſpoſition, and the Apprehenſions, that would conſequently follow, of their exerciſing it improperly, and to the Diſquiet and Prejudice of the Public, as moſt of their Countrymen have done, whenever they have had it in their Power.

We may conclude theſe Remarks on the Germans, with an Obſervation, we are naturally led to by the above-mentioned Diſparity between their Character and that of the French; which is, that no Nation gives more frequent and unanſwerable Proofs than the former, how ſolid and well founded the Maxim is which teaches, that Plainneſs in our Proceedings, and a practical Abhorrence of all Artifice, are the ſafeſt and readieſt Road to Succeſs in all our lawful Undertakings.

THIS is a Praiſe to which the general Tenour of their Conduct juſtly entitles them; a Praiſe of no ſmall Magnitude, and which, notwithſtanding the Depravity of an Age, prone to indulge in all the ſtudied Fineſſes of Cunning and falſe Prudence, preſerves an eſſential Weight among the Qualifications required in them who are at the Head of public Tranſactions; and is at the ſame Time an illuſtrious Argument of the Homage, which the ſtauncheſt and moſt conſtant Votaries of Duplicity, are obliged to pay to the ſuperior Utility of Plain-Dealing.

THE fortunate Effects of this national Frankneſs and Simplicity of Heart, are very viſible and extenſive wherever theſe Cauſes are ſuffered to operate in their full Vigour, and without being fettered by the Reſtraints of an oppreſſive Syſtem in Politics, ever unfavourable to the Manifeſtation of the noble Endowments of the Mind.

HENCE in thoſe diſtant Regions, where German Colonies are ſettled under more auſpicious Forms of Government than prevail in their own Country; the greater and more effectual Encouragement theſe laudable Principles meet with in a Land of Liberty, than they can enjoy where the Severity of Deſpotiſm is predominant, enables them to appear in their genuine Luſtre, and to command, as well as merit, thoſe Rewards that are in thoſe yet untyranniſed and happy Climes, and ought every where to be, their inſeparable Companions.

None of the numerous Adventurers in theſe remote Quarters of the Globe, from whatever Parts of the World they may come, exceed the Proſperity that ſo generally attends the Emigrators from Germany; who, wherever they fix their Reſidence, never fail to render it reſpectable for the Habitation of Men of the moſt ſpotleſs Faith and Probity; a Character that as ſeldom fails to prove the moſt irreſiſtible Attraction to Confidence, Eſteem and Credit, and to inſure the moſt cordial Concurrence on all Sides, to ſupport and forward ſuch deſerving Neighbours, in their Endeavours to thrive and flouriſh, from an experimental Conviction of obtaining a moſt ample Retribution, in the Participation of the numberleſs Benefits which muſt neceſſarily accrue from ſo profitable a Vicinity. The Truth of this Aſſertion is notorious to all who have been Witneſſes of the Conduct of the German Settlers in our American Provinces, as honeſt and worthy a Race of Men, as any that inhabit the Britiſh Dominions.

To Candour and Simplicity, let us alſo add two other moſt capitally meritorious Qualifications, Laborioufneſs and Frugality, for which they are no leſs renowned, and wherein, though they may have Rivals, yet they certainly have no Superiors. Theſe may juſtly be deemed the four characteriſtical Virtues of the Germans; Virtues that are inconteſtibly the Baſis of many others, and which place them on a Level with thoſe Nations who entertain the higheſt Notions of their own Worth.

THEIR indefatigable Exertion of theſe two latter Qualities, is a peculiar Subject of Admiration to all who travel in Germany, where, notwithſtanding the Diſcouragements, to which the lower Claſſes are uſually ſubject in many of the Principalities of the Empire, yet, through an invariable Steadineſs and Aſſiduity in their ſeveral Callings, Decency and Sufficiency are the Portion of the Majority of thoſe, moſt of whoſe Equals in Degree in other Countries, through a Defect of the ſame Meaſure of Toil and Application, are reduced to complain of Wretchedneſs and Want.

BUT without going out of our own Limits, the vaſt Continent already mentioned abounds with Proofs of the laborious Spirit and good Huſbandry of the Germans: Thoſe eſpecially who cultivate the fertile Plains of Penſylvania, are a People, in theſe Reſpects, fit to be ſet up as Examples to all our Coloniſts; as they are, indeed, inferior to none in that punctual and honourable Diſcharge of all Duties and Obligations, which conſtitutes the moſt excellent Members of Society; a Truth it is incumbent on all Engliſhmen to acknowledge with Gratitude, when we reflect on the noble Returns they have made for the Patronage and Aſſiſtance received from Britain, in augmenting almoſt Tenfold, within the Compaſs of leſs than half a Century, the Riches and Value of one of our moſt important Colonies.

NOTWITHSTANDING the Malignity that ſome have, perhaps, too willingly, admitted to be inherent in our Nature, from the Propenſity and Alertneſs, with which Scandal and Defamation are liſtened to and propagated; yet, from the more viſible Satisfaction and Delight, that commonly appear, as much in them who hear, as in thoſe who recount laudable Tranſactions, it ſeems probable there is more Enjoyment reſulting from the latter, than from the former; a Conjecture one may venture to countenance for the Honour of Humanity.

INDUCED by ſo flattering and agreeable a Preſumption, we have expatiated the more largely, and with the more Alacrity, on thoſe Parts of the Character of the Germans, that ſhew them in an amiable Light; and have not inſiſted upon the ſlight Faults of a Nation, ſo eſteemable for its far greater Proportion of eminent Qualities, with that Minuteneſs which, in the Scale of Senſe and Equity, ought to be reſerved for the Enumeration of ſuch Things only as can be remembered with Pleaſure, and contribute to the Uſe and Edification of Mankind. When Virtues greatly preponderate, Vices ſhould almoſt be forgotten; and while we ſurvey the Failings next to inſeparable from the Condition of Mortals, we ſhould be cautious not to permit Cenſoriouſneſs to dwell on mere Foibles, leſt our Attention ſhould be diminiſhed to the Splendor of ſolid Deſerts.

THE public Intereſt undoubtedly makes it ſometimes neceſſary, to expoſe the Guilt, and animadvert on the Flaws of a People in their national Capacity; but the utmoſt Impartiality and Diſcretion ſhould direct ſuch an Enquiry: In order to avoid Falſhood and Miſrepreſentation, the moſt unfeigned Mildneſs and Moderation ought to be our Guides, and no Tincture of Exaggeration allowed. According to the celeſtial Precept, we ſhould temper Judgment with Mercy; and above all, be convinced, that Slander is acceptable only to the Malicious and Narrow-hearted, a Claſs of Readers it were a Diſgrace to pleaſe, and that to a feeling Mind the Diſcovery of Blemiſhes muſt be painful; and to an enlarged Underſtanding the Review of Miſdeeds can afford no Matter of Satisfaction.

IT is a much more delightful Taſk, when ſuch Pictures can be drawn as demand more Light than Shade, and require not Colours of an offenſive Die; when charmed with the Beauty and Propriety of the Subject, the Painter need not fear to diſplay it fully to Sight. Happy when ſuch a Metaphor is applicable to Individuals; but how much happier, when, without violating the Truth, we are able to apply it to whole Nations!

OF

OF THE

DUTCH.

NEITHER ancient nor modern Ages have afforded a more illuſtrious Proof, that Nations, as well as Individuals, are the Artificers of their own Fortune, than that which has been ſo conſpicuouſly exhibited by the Republic of Holland.

UNNOTICED for the Courſe of many Centuries, and mentioned in Hiſtory as little more than Expletives in the Titles of ſome Sovereigns, or as the inconſiderable and petty Principalities that occur to the ſtudious Enquirer in the Courſe of his Reading, the Provinces of which this Commonwealth conſiſts, emerged at once from Obſcurity, and the World ſaw with Amazement a People, who compoſed the ſmalleſt Part of an Empire formed by the unexpected Union of various Countries, riſe on a ſudden, to ſuch a Degree of Strength and Importance, as to figure equally with the moſt wealthy, moſt populous, and moſt powerful Nations.

THIS happened at a Time when, from a Concurrence of ſiniſter Events, all Europe imagined they were on the Eve of becoming of leſs Conſequence than ever; and of experiencing the heavieſt Weight of civil and religious Tyranny, which had united to wreak their utmoſt Malice on them; and ſeemed leſs intent to treat them with the moſt merciles Severity, than to accompliſh their abſolute and utter Deſtruction.

SUCH was the diſtreſsful Situation of a People who took the heroic Reſolution not to deſpond, and to riſk all rather than ſubmit to their Oppreſſors; though they had before their Eyes, deplorable Inſtances of the unrelenting Barbarity that muſt inevitably prove their Fate, if their Reſiſtance were unſucceſsful.

A TERRIBLE Example had been made of their unfortunate Neighbours, and Fellow-ſubjects, the Flemings; who, though far ſuperior to them in Wealth and Numbers, had miſcarried in their Attempt to oppoſe the illegal Proceedings of an arbitrary Court; which in the Fury of its Reſentment, had chaſtiſed them with the moſt ſhameleſs Inhumanity.

BUT in Spite of theſe dreadful Precedents, and the apparent Improbability of their Meeting with better Fortune, Arguments that were ſtrongly urged by the puſillanimous or the venal among their Countrymen; with every Diſcouragement to damp their Spirit, it ſtill ſhone forth with almoſt unexampled Luſtre; and enabled an indigent, undiſciplined Multitude, to cope with the Treaſures of the richeſt Potentate in Europe, and to face the beſt diſciplined Troops, at that Time, in the World; and in the End, to become an Overmatch for both.

FACTS of this Nature, the Authenticity of which is indiſputable, ought certainly to eſtabliſh the Character of a Nation, and render it inacceſſible to the Reach of Slander and Malevolence: And yet, whether from Envy, or a Depravity of Judgment, it does nor ſeem that other Nations have ſhewn a ſufficient Degree of Impartiality, and paid a due Tribute of Praiſe and Admiration, to this Magnanimity and invincible Reſolution of the Dutch. The Aſſiſtance they ſucceſſively received from the Engliſh, the French, and others, in the Progreſs of their Hoſtilities, is generally too much inſiſted upon; and People forget, that in the Birth and Infancy of their State, a Period when Help was moſt needed, they had no other Support than their own deſperate Valour; of which they diſplayed, on numberleſs Occaſions, the moſt amazing Proofs, particularly in thoſe ever-memorable Sieges of Harlem, and Leyden, not undeſervedly compared to thoſe of Saguntum, and Carthage; and which they ſuſtained with a Courage and Heroiſm neceſſary, at that critical Period, to convince their Enemies what Men they had to deal with. Actions like theſe, rouſed, at laſt, the Attention of Europe, in Favour of the Dutch; in the ſame Manner as the valiant Perſeverance of the Corſicans in the Defence of their Liberty, may at length intereſt ſome of the moſt conſiderable Powers in their Behalf.

THIS obſtinate Fortitude in the moſt dangerous Trials, may juſtly be reputed a national Characteriſtic of the Dutch. They ſignally verified it, a ſecond Time, by their intrepid Behaviour in the famous Year Seventy-two, ty-two, during the laſt Century, when the ignominious Alliance of the Court of England with that of France, ſeemed to portend their entire Annihilation, from the Inveteracy, the Power, and the Proximity of theſe potent Adverſaries: The firſt of them was gaining, and had near compleated a Superiority at Sea; and the Second, from the Numerouſneſs of his Armies, and the Excellence of his Commanders, was reaſonably deemed irreſiſtible at Land. Thus they found themſelves hemmed in, as it were, between two Aſſailants, one of whom, though a voluptuous Prince, had private Piques of the moſt ſtimulating Nature to animate him againſt them, and Men of unqueſtionable Bravery and Conduct, to ſecond his Animoſity; and the other was an ambitious, and bigoted Monarch, who thought himſelf authoriſed by his Religion, and was inſtigated by the Adulation of his Subjects and Miniſters, to overturn that flouriſhing Commonwealth.

In this Extremity, which nothing could exceed or equal, but the primitive Difficulties they had to encounter in the Formation of their State, they acted with a Firmneſs and Prudence no People ever ſurpaſſed. When driven to the Brink of Deſpair, they did not loſe that Preſence of Mind, which never deſponds while any Glimmering of Hope remans; but like the Romans, who after the Defeat of Cannae, ſtill poſſeſſed that undaunted Calmneſs of Soul, by which they perceived they were not totally undone, and continued to exert themſelves vigorouſly every where; after this noble Example, the Dutch remained unintimidated, unperplexed in all their Deliberations and Meaſures.

Notwithſtanding the French Armies and the Engliſh Fleets were ſurrounding them on all Sides, though the former had penetrated into the Heart of their Country, and the latter were beſieging their very Shores, they yet had the Courage and Conſtancy to give up nothing for loſt; and to provide equally for the Defence and Protection of every Spot that ſtill was their own, and for the Recovery of all that had been wreſted from them by the Enemy. Add to this, the ſpirited Indignation with which they rejected the baſe Proffers of Peace, or rather of Servitude, which the haughty Invader imagined their Diſtreſſes had ſufficiently prepared them to receive. Add, what is much more, the unſhaken Greatneſs of Soul which inſpired them with that no leſs heroic, than unparalleled Determination, rather than embrace Slavery, to abandon their native Country, and tranſport themſelves, their Wives, Children, Families, in a Word, their whole Nation, acroſs the Ocean to the fartheſt Extremities of the Globe: So ſtupendous a Deſign could only have been conceived by Enthuſiaſts for Liberty; in the Cauſe of which, ſuch a Species of Enthuſiaſm was truly ſublime, and certainly reflected the higheſt Honour on thoſe who were capable of it.

Thus it was the Dutch eſtabliſhed their Liberty, in Defiance of the Tyranny of Spain, and maintained it againſt the Ambition of France. The Struggle in both Caſes, was attended with the utmoſt Difficulties, and conſequently with an immenſe Acquiſition of Glory. The firſt had rendered them ſufficiently famous; but the ſecond added a Degree of Renown ſtill greater, from the ſuperior Might of the combined Enemies, with whom they had to contend, and from the Capacity they were in, to reſiſt ſo powerful a League, owing to the Progreſs which Labour, Induſtry and Commerce had been gradually making among them, during the Space of the foregoing Century.

The Advantages ariſing from theſe Reſources, they were but ſlightly acquainted with at the Æra of their Foundation; and they came to the Poſſeſſion of Freedom, as the Inheritor of an Eſtate, of which the ſole Value is to conſiſt of his future Improvements. They ſhewed themſelves, however, fully adequate to the Taſk Neceſſity had impoſed upon them. In the Courſe of not many Years, a Country, Nature has been remarkably unfavourable to, became both habitable and pleaſant. Towns and Cities were built, where Huts or poor Villages had ſtood for Ages before; their Frontiers were covered with Fortreſſes; they ſent numerous Armies into the Field, and the moſt formidable Fleets upon the Seas; and, in ſhort, proved themſelves entirely worthy of that Independency, which, after they had nobly aſſerted it by a War of eighty Years Continuance, was adjudged by the unanimous Voice of all Europe, aſſembled at the Congreſs of Munſter, to be a Reward amply due to their unremitting Efforts to preſerve it.

Such is the general Picture of the Inhabitants of the Seven United Provinces; a People, as Thomſon ſays of the Scots, "In Misfortune's School trained up to "hardy Deeds." And one may not leſs truly add, moſt highly deſerving of the Proſperity to which they have attained, and have now ſo long enjoyed: A Proſperity which, as it was not the Reſult of mere Contingencies, but the natural and neceſſary Conſequence of Plans wiſely laid, and ſpiritedly executed, promiſes, from the Permanency of the Genius that preſided at its Commencement, to have a laſting Duration.

WHAT renders the Succeſs of theſe Plans more admirable, is, that they were formed, carried on, and completed in the midſt of a perilous and expenſive War; and not during the Tranquility, Leiſure, and Safety of Peace; the only Time when other Nations have turned their Attention to Schemes of this Nature.

THE Dutch ſeem to have ſuperlatively fulfilled the Proverb of Horace, *Nil Mortalibus arduum*, Nothing is difficult to Mortals, when they are obſtinately determined to combat all Obſtacles.

LEWIS the Fourteenth thought greatly of his forcing Nature at Verſailles; what then muſt we think of the Victories of the Dutch over the perpetual Oppoſition they meet from it in ſo many prodigious Enterpriſes at Home? An Oppoſition the more powerful, as it will never end; and requires an equal Perſeverance of Efforts, not to ſubdue it, which is impracticable, but in order to prevent it from ſubduing.

AS Good, however, is ſometimes educed out of the greateſt Evils, from this unceaſing Contention is produced that unyielding Diſpoſition in the Natives, which has proved the moſt ſolid Baſis of their Grandeur, and enables them, at the ſame Time, to claim a Species of Glory, no other Nation ever yet had a Right to; which is, that while other Countries maintain and ſupport their Inhabitants, they, on the contrary, give in a Manner, Exiſtence to the Land they dwell in.

FROM Cauſes of this Nature, and that exhauſtleſs Fund of indefatigable Induſtry, the happy Conſequences of which are diffuſed over all the Face of the Land, Stateſmen and Princes who have ſtudied, and been deſirous to promote the Welfare of their Subjects, and the Improvement of their Dominions, have ſought the Means of theſe ſalutary Purpoſes chiefly in this Country. Thus, after the Ceſſation of the Civil Wars which had ſo terribly afflicted France, and the peaceable Poſſeſſion of the Crown was ſecured to Henry the Fourth, when he and the Duke of Sully employed themſelves in the patroniſing of Trade and Manufactures, the Dutch were the Patterns he honoured with his Imitation; by adopting their Maxims and Regulations in the Eſtabliſhment of various Branches of Buſineſs; and nobly rewarding ſuch of them as perſonally ſettled in his Realm, and were inſtrumental in forwarding thoſe laudable Deſigns. The Steps of this Monarch, the beſt and greateſt France ever had, were not leſs ſucceſsfully purſued by the ableſt Miniſter that Kingdom was at any Time bleſt with, the immortal Colbert, the real Founder of all its ſubſequent Greatneſs. Of latter Days, that Prodigy of Diligence and Activity, the celebrated Peter of Muſcovy, made Holland

land the principal Object of his Attention, in the modelling, and Proſecution of thoſe truly Royal Schemes and Reſolutions he had framed for the Benefit of his vaſt Empire.

IN no other Country whatever, will a judicious Traveller find more Subjects of inſtructive Speculation. Excepting to thoſe contemptible Individuals who ſaunter about the World in Queſt of mere Amuſement and Diverſion, no Spot on Earth affords more noble Motives of Admiration and Reſpect for thoſe who poſſeſs it, than Holland; where whatever political Abilities can perform has been ſo ſignally atchieved.

IT was the Opinion of Themiſtocles, that the higheſt Proof of human Capacity, conſiſted in aggrandizing a ſmall State; and conformably to this Sentiment, that great Man's Reputation, in his own Age, aroſe much leſs from his Victory at Salamis over the Perſians, and the Deliverance of all Greece from thoſe Invaders, than from the Re-eſtabliſhment of Athens, and the Meaſures by which he laid the Foundation of the Importance and Superiority, his Countrymen obtained over all the other Grecian Cities.

ACCORDING to this Obſervation, what a Number of able Stateſmen muſt have contributed to the Fortune of the Dutch; whoſe Beginnings, as their own Motto truly intimates, were ſo ſmall, whoſe Increaſe of Strength and Conſideration was ſo rapid, and the Duration of both which has been ſo permanent?

NOTWITHSTANDING moſt of their Neighbours have followed their Examples in the Cultivation of Commerce, and the Encouragement of Induſtry, yet Holland ſtill remains ſuperior in both to all her Rivals and Imitators; and from the Tenour of its Conſtitution, is little apprehenſive of the Diminution of this Superiority.

THERE is no Country where a Facility of ſettling is ſo univerſally unclogged with Impediments from national, civil, or religious Cauſes. The whole World is, in a Manner, made welcome; and a Participation of all Privileges ſecured to every one by the generous Hoſpitality of the Government, which admits, with a noble Confidence, Individuals of all Countries into its Truſt and Service.

HENCE it has been ſo plentifully ſupplied with the moſt uſeful Members in all Denominations. Its Cities have been ſtocked with Merchants, and Men of Buſineſs, from all thoſe Parts where an impolitic Oppreſſion denied them the Liberty of enjoying the Fruits of their Labour, without Subjection to Rapine and arbitrary Taxation, or of following the Dictates of their Conſcience in Matters of Religion. Similar Acts of Injuſtice contributed no leſs to fill their Armies with excellent Officers and Soldiers from all Quarters.

THUS the Violation of thoſe common Rights of Humanity, which had been the Cauſe of their primitive Inſurrection, proved alſo the Means of peopling their Provinces; and may be aſſigned as the principal

Channel through which the Wealth and Strength of other States have been transferred into their Hands.

On their very Commencement, the Inhabitants and Riches of Brabant and Flanders, the moſt commercial and opulent Countries in Europe, were driven, by Tyranny and Perſecution, into Holland; the Beginning of whoſe Proſperity and Exaltation may be aſcribed to the Downfall of Ghent and Antwerp; on the Ruins of which unfortunate Cities its Grandeur ſpeedily roſe, by the Acceſſion of thoſe Multitudes of moneyed Burghers, and induſtrious Tradeſmen and Merchants, who were formerly the Citizens of thoſe once flouriſhing Places; and who deſerted over in Crowds to a Land of Freedom and Security. The thirty Years War in Germany, brought them no leſs a Supply, in the middle of the laſt Century, when ſuch Numbers fled from the Scenes of Deſolation that unhappy Country was ſo long involved in. The Revocation of the Edict of Nantz, which deprived France of her moſt valuable Subjects, was alſo an Addition of People and Treaſure to Holland, almoſt equal to any of the two former. As the ſame Cauſes have been operating throughout Europe ever ſince, though not indeed with equal Violence, a conſtant, though leſs copious Emigration, continues from other Countries into theirs; which, notwithſtanding Zealots and Abettors of Slavery have ſtiled it the Retreat of the Out-caſts, and Refuſe of all Europe, has often proved the Aſylum of ſome of the moſt illuſtrious Characters in modern Ages.

No Sort of reaſonable Encouragement is wanting to induce the Reſort of all whoſe Talents may become of real Utility to the Public, either by the Importation of Improvements, or a Diſpoſition to Labour and Induſtry, which in this Country is juſtly deemed a Qualification of the higheſt Value, and is accordingly cheriſhed and aſſiſted by the Legiſlature, with no common Care and Attention.

That Vigilance and patriotic Zeal which frequently, in other Nations, by deviating from Moderation, defeats its own Purpoſe, is, in Holland, accompanied with a Calmneſs that weighs impartially the Propriety or Unfitneſs of all Meaſures; and conſequently excludes none from whence the State may derive any Benefit, however diſguſting they may appear to the Inconſiderate or the Prejudiced.

Hence, in the midſt of that Reſentment, it was natural they ſhould feel on Account of the ſevere Treatment they had received from the Romaniſts, they ſtill granted them, with no leſs Policy than Humanity, the moſt ample Liberty of exerciſing the Functions of their Religion; while on the other hand, by not wholly diveſting them of all national Employments, and yet debarring them of any Degree of Power that might rouſe their Ambition, and incite them to exert their reſtleſs Antipathy for all other Perſuaſions, they have found Means to render them good Subjects in a Proteſtant State; thus they have Admiſſion into their Fleets and Armies, and may riſe in either to a certain Rank. Theſe, in their Turn, to do them Juſtice, have ſhewn themſelves worthy of all theſe Favours by a faithful Diſcharge of their ſeveral Duties; and it is no Exaggeration to aſſert, that the Romaniſts in the United Provinces are the moſt reſpectable of any of their Communion under a Proteſtant Government. They have an unfeigned Attachment to their Country, and are duly attentive to the Importance of that Maxim, the Obſervance of which would have prevented ſo much Miſchief in the World, that our ſpiritual Concerns ſhould never be allowed to interfere with political Tranſactions.

To this happy Spirit of univerſal Toleration is owing the humane Reception and Uſage of the Jews; whoſe Wealth and Multitude in Holland, exceed thoſe of their Brethren in any other Chriſtian State; and who, to their truer Honour, afford a greater Number of worthy Characters here than any where.

The ſame may be ſaid of the many inferior Sects and Denominations of Chriſtians, that abound in this Part of Europe, and who live here in the Enjoyment of a Tranquility, which, by ſetting their Minds at Eaſe, baniſhes that Ferocity of Temper, which is the natural Conſequence of Perſecution, and leaves them full Power to follow, with Chearfulneſs and Serenity, the Bent of their Diſpoſition, and to diſplay thoſe Virtues and good Qualities that are found in People of all Perſuaſions.

This total Deliverance from religious Oppreſſion and Inveteracy, is the more remarkable, as it has taken

Place in a Country which was once ſo much the Patrimony of the Church, that all the petty Sovereigns of its various Diſtricts acknowledged themſelves, formerly, the liege Subjects of the Biſhop of Utrecht; and it was not till the Days of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, that this Prelate ceaſed to be Lord Paramount of upwards of twenty Principalities in the low Countries.

THE Founder of this eccleſiaſtical Grandeur, Charlemain, was certainly very excuſable, when we recollect the Barbarouſneſs of his Times, and the Piety of his Motives. But Philip the Second of Spain, who thought it incumbent upon him to imitate this Part of his Conduct, only ſhewed his Ignorance of the State of Mankind in his Days, and his own deſpicable Turn for Superſtition; for both which he deſervedly ſuffered.

SUCH a Lenity and Moderation in the Rules and Practice of Government, was the principal Motive that induced the European Powers to prefer Holland to all other Conntries, as a Place of amicable Meeting for all Parties; where, from the Freedom and Unreſtraint they had all an equal Claim to, they might indulge themſelves in a friendly Diſcuſſion and Reconcilement of their Differences. This Preference began very ſoon after the Foundation of the Republic. We find that even ſo early as when the Spaniſh Armada was become the grand Subject of Attention in Europe; England, France, and Germany had their Miniſters at the Hague; which, in a few Years after, became the Center of all public Negociations; and whither even the Spaniards themſelves at laſt repaired, in order to conclude the famous Treaty, to which they gave the Name of Truce. Not long after an additional Honour was conferred upon Holland, by the holding of that celebrated Synod at Dort, where the univerſal Body of Proteſtants aſſembled for the firſt, and probably the laſt Time.

From this perpetual Concourſe of Perſons, whoſe Abilities, from the Buſineſs committed to their Management, may juſtly be eſteemed to have been of the firſt Rate, a Conſequence was derived of ſignal Advantage to the State, in the many conſummate Politicians who were trained in that School of Wiſdom and Knowledge, formed by the conſtant Intercourſe of the chief Members of the Republic, with the moſt able Negociators from all the European Courts. Hence the great Names of Barnevelt, De Wit, Heinſius, Fagel, and many others, all Men of prime Eminence in their Station, and worthy to be cited as the moſt perfect Models of Miniſters and of Patriots.

It was no Wonder the State ſhould proſper under ſuch Men; the Hiſtory of Holland, during their Adminiſtration, amply proves how adequate they were to the Charge they undertook; and when we reflect on the Happineſs their Countrymen enjoyed while governed by their Councils, the Warmth of Expreſſion it is ſo frequently commemorated with in Holland, is a Tribute to which they have the moſt reaſonable Claim.

Swayed by the Genius, and animated with the Spirit of ſuch Guides, the Dutch, in all their Affairs both of Peace and War, ſhone forth with diſtinguiſhed Luſtre; and became ſuperior to every Nation in Europe in whatever conſtitutes the ſolid Grandeur of a People. Through ſalutary Regulations in all that related to domeſtic Proceedings, they grew populous, and opulent at Home; and by the moſt deliberate and circumſpectful Conduct in all their foreigns Concerns, they were no leſs ſucceſsful and reſpected Abroad.

IN no very long Space after they had ſhaken off the Yoke of Spain, about the Beginning of the ſeventeenth Century, they had rendered themſelves an Example to all their Neighbours in the Science of internal Government; and by the noble, beneficent Uſage of all who entered into their Service, they had acquired the completeſt military Liſt at that Time extant. No Army was then comparable to that of Prince Maurice, whether we conſider the Skill of the Officers, or the Bravery and Diſcipline of the Soldiers. Actions of the moſt heroic Intrepidity were common among theſe; ſuch, to mention one only out of many, was that of him who deſired his next Comrade to kill him, leſt the Noiſe of his Coughing ſhould alarm the Enemy, whom they were about to ſurpriſe; an Inſtance of Magnanimity not inferior to that of the Piedmonteſe Soldier, who at the Siege of Turin, during the Wars for the Spaniſh Succeſſion, blew himſelf up, with three hundred French.

WITH Armies compoſed of Men, among whom Feats of this Nature were not unfrequent, they were a full Match for the Spaniards at Land, though commanded by a Prince of Parma, and a Spinola; while at Sea, no Competition ſubſiſted between them and Spain; whoſe Fleets they defeated, ſeized, or deſtroyed every where; and whoſe Settlements they invaded in the remoteſt Quarters of the Globe.

THESE Triumphs were not more due to the Reſolution of their Troops, and the Conduct of their Commanders, than to the Wiſdom and Vigilance that planned their Operations, and the excellent Order their Finances were kept in.

THE Art of making the moſt of their public Revenues, no People, indeed, ever underſtood better than the Dutch, whoſe unparalleled Oeconomy was the Fund from whence they drew thoſe Treaſures that enabled them, even in the Infancy of their Commonwealth, to make a grateful, and no inconſiderable Return of the moſt timely Aſſiſtance to their generous Friend and Patron Queen Elizabeth, when menaced with an Invaſion by the Spaniards, in the famous eighty-eighth Year of the ſixteenth Century. The like Epocha in the following, was no leſs remarkable, when they fully requited their Obligations to England, for delivering them from the Tyranny of Spain. It was indeed a noble Requital; no leſs than the Revolution, for which the Engliſh Nation ſhould never forget it ſtands deeply indebted to the Dutch; an Event that completely wiped off the Stain caſt upon their Character by the Affair of Amboyna; which, however, was the Deed but of a few; while the aſſiſting in our Preſervation,

ſervation, was the Work of the unanimous Councils of their whole Nation; a Meaſure, it may be added, wherein it was happy for us they were as able, as willing, ſo powerfully to co-operate.

THE whole Tenour of their Conduct, was the ſame reſpecting other Nations. Ever watchful of what was doing, that might in any wiſe affect their Intereſt, nothing was tranſacted, throughout Europe, wherein their Intervention was juſt and proper, without their Appearance on the Scene of Action, with no leſs Credit and Dignity to themſelves, than Benefit to the Party whoſe Cauſe they eſpouſed.

THUS, by interpoſing in the Quarrels between Denmark and Sweden, in the middle of the laſt Century, the former was ſaved from impending Ruin; and, on a more recent Occaſion, the latter was effectually protected.

AN equal Attention was paid to other Kingdoms and States; and no People ever made more judicious Treaties, or obſerved their different Engagements with greater Honour and Fidelity.

IT was, therefore, with the moſt equitable and rational Pride, they ſtruck that famous Medal, which the Haughtineſs of the Court, and Miniſtry of Lewis the Fourteenth, took ſuch a groundleſs and iniquitous Offence at. The Truth was, they ſought a Pretence to break with Holland; and for Want of a better, made uſe of this pitiful and ignominious Pretext, among others, by conſtruing an elegant, and ſpirited Catalogue of the national Atchievements, and political Merits of that Republick, into an indirect Cenſure and Contempt of their own Proceedings. All Europe, however, bore Teſtimony to the Rectitude of the Dutch in their Aſſertions; and the triumphal Arches the French erected at Paris for their King, were, in fact, rather Monuments of his Injuſtice, and ſhameful Ambition, than of his Conqueſts, which both he and the World were conſcious he had only made through Deceit and Surpriſe, over an unprovided and defenceleſs People; and which he was forced to abandon, with no leſs Rapidity than he had obtained them, as ſoon as they had recovered from the Confuſion, ſo unforeſeen, and ſo unexpected an Invaſion had thrown them into; and had put themſelves into a Poſture of Defence, by a new modelling and Augmentation of their Land Forces, and the Re-eſtabliſhment of the Statholderſhip; an Expedient, of which the Efficacy was ſo apparent, at that Time, that it is not improbable, the Repetition of it in Favour of the preſent Houſe of Orange, at the Cloſe of the laſt War but one was no ſmall Inducement with the French to conclude a Peace, from the Recollection how little their former Attempts on the Dutch had proſpered, after this ſalutary Step had been taken.

The Propriety and Moderation thus exhibited by Holland in its Tranſactious with the European Powers, have, in a manner, endeared the Safety and Welfare of that flouriſhing Republic to all Parties and Perſuaſions, the French alone excepted; who long ago, ever ſince the Decline of the Spaniſh Monarchy, (to the Downfall of which, their Intereſt prompted them to contribute equally with the Dutch) have been meditating the Acquiſition of thoſe Provinces that form a neceſſary Barrier between France and that Commonwealth; which notwithſtanding the Reputation of political Wiſdom, it has ſo long and ſo juſtly enjoyed, ſeems leſs apprehenſive of theſe encroaching Neighbours than formerly; and to have forgotten the Arrogance and haughty Treatment it experienced from them, during their tranſitory Poſſeſſion of the Spaniſh Low Countries at the Opening of this Century.

Many are the Motives that incline the People of Europe to wiſh well to the Dutch; whoſe profound and exquiſite Policy has taken Care to eſtabliſh a Connexion between themſelves and other States, of ſuch a Nature, that the public and private Affairs of both are become ſo intimately blended and interwoven, as not to ſuffer a Disjunction. This is a Piece of Skill of no recent ſtanding. They began the Practice of it not long after their primitive Settlement; by intereſting the principal Individuals throughout Europe in their Funds, and rendering their Country the Channel and Centre of all pecuniary Negociations between States and Sovereigns; and even the Depoſitory of their Treaſures, as well as of the Riches of their Subjects.

While thus attentive to the moſt effectual Means of ſecuring themſelves againſt Accidents from Abroad, they have neglected nothing that could in any ſhape contribute to render their Situation at Home comfortable. In order to accompliſh this End, nothing has been ſpared either of Art or Labour; and it muſt be confeſſed, they never were employed more ſucceſsfully. Notwithſtanding the Beauty and Embelliſhments of their Country, are abſolutely the Reſult of theſe Cauſes alone, yet they have been ſo judiciouſly exerted, that neither is, in a manner, perceptible; we may even add, that as a Man who emerges from Adverſity to good Fortune, diſplays more Joy than one who never experienced Calamity, ſo Nature in Holland, wears an Aſpect rather more flouriſhing and gay, than in thoſe Parts where little or no Trouble is requiſite to keep her in good Order. Though it muſt be admitted, at the ſame time, that, like a Conſtitution recovered from a bad Plight, it demands alſo the utmoſt Watchfulneſs and Care, in order to be prevented from a Relapſe into its former Drearineſs and Deſolation.

Of this, however, there is no Danger, when we conſider the Pains taken to obviate it by the Number of Hands ſo deeply intereſted in promoting the Proſperity of the Public through the Proſecution of their own; in no State whatever the general Weal being more nearly connected with that of Individuals: Hence it is, according to the Propenſity we all have to cheriſh that moſt on which we have beſtowed the largeſt Meaſure of Attention and Solicitude, as much as from the natural Predilection of all Mankind for the Spot of their Nativity, that the Dutch are ſo remarkably attached to their own Country, having through their Ingenuity and Induſtry, rendered it the Seat of Wealth, Plenty, and Neatneſs: As ſuch it is daily reſorted to from all Quarters of Europe; not ſo much from Motives of Curioſity, as of a more eſſential Tendency; thoſe of becoming Reſidents in this Land of Opulence, and of partaking of the Benefits accruing to Abilities and Diligence, under a mild and eaſy Government.

As none but People of this Diſpoſition are deſirous of ſettling in a Country where Toil and Application are the only Means of Thriving, Holland acquires no Inhabitants but ſuch as bring with them a Fund of Laboriouſneſs and Activity, which alone is an immenſe Treaſure; and if we attend to long Experience, has generally proved the principal, if not the ſole Foundation, on which the greateſt Fortunes have been erected.

To theſe Cauſes Holland owes a Populouſneſs that will never decreaſe, while it retains its primitive Maxims of Lenity and Toleration; and while thoſe of a contrary Nature continue to be adopted by the ruling Powers in other Nations.

INFLUENCED by ſo many Reaſons, it is not ſurpriſing that ſuch a Multitude of Foreigners ſhould fix their Abode in a Part of the World ſo inviting to a conſiderate Mind, where a Spirit of Cleanlineſs and Decency beautifies every Object, and where whatever is capable of Improvement, receives it in the higheſt Degree; not ſuch Kind of Improvement as gratifies the mere Sight, but that, and much more that which is of ſolid Utility in the great Concerns of Life.

In this, they capitally differ from ſome of thoſe Nations eſteemed the moſt refined in Europe; who, while they abound with Maſter-pieces in the Productions of Art, have unhappily forgotten the Cultivation of Nature, and ſuffered their Country to lie neglected, and unequal to the Neceſſities of the wretched Inhabitants. But even the Perfection of thoſe Arts, in the Cultivation of which they ſo pride themſelves, is in the Scale of Reaſon, only a Proof of the Levity and Inſignificancy of Mind, of thoſe whoſe Time and Means are ſo ſhamefully abſorbed in their Patronage and Admiration, to the total Oblivion of thoſe infinitely more laudable Purſuits which might have effected the univerſal Felicity of a whole Nation.

It is in theſe great Branches of political Knowledge the Dutch confeſſedly excel all the reſt of Europe, where moſt of the Governments, till very lately, attended more to the Intrigues and Deſigns of their Neighbours, or to the ſtrengthening the Reins of domeſtic Authority, than to the ameliorating the Condition of their Subjects.

These are the Reſpects wherein the Dutch bear a moſt honourable Reſemblance with the Carthaginians, to whom ſome have thought proper to compare them, with an invidious Intent. But, a few Caſes excepted, they were a People with whom a Similitude is by no Means diſgraceful. However they might act oppreſſively in other Inſtances, they were always particularly careful to diſſeminate their Knowledge and Talents in the Culture and Improvement of Countries, wherever their Empire extended; and their Skill in thoſe uſeful Arts was ſo eminent, that even their Rivals and Exterminators, the Romans, acknowledged their Superiority therein, and profited by their Leſſons.

In Imitation of thoſe celebrated Models, the Dutch have made it their inceſſant Buſineſs to ſearch for all the various Sources of Fertility; and to leave no Experiment untried, in order to draw from the Earth whatever Toil and Sagacity could command. Hence, notwithſtanding the Multitude of Inhabitants that crowd their Cities, Towns and Villages, and overſpread the whole Country, in a manner to which no other Part of Europe affords any Proportion, nothing is wanting of thoſe Productions to which their Soil is adapted, or to ſpeak with more Truth, which endleſs Care and Labour can poſſibly extract from it. Whatever the Nature of it refuſes them, is regularly ſupplied by the moſt copious Importation, and ſuch is their Foreſight and Vigilance, that they have always enjoyed Plenty; while the moſt fruitful Parts of Europe, even thoſe from whence they draw the chief Articles of Suſtenance in the greateſt Abundance, have often, through Inconſiderateneſs, been reduced to the moſt deplorable Want.

A Country and People, where a diſcerning Inſpector is able perpetually to diſcover ſo many Motives to admire their Indefatigableneſs and Ingenuity, can only diſpleaſe the unthinking and vacant Part of Mankind. To ſuch indeed, no Individuals exiſtent can prove more unacceptable than the Dutch; who of all Nations poſſeſs the leaſt of thoſe ſuperficial Attractions, the Acquiſition of which is ſo aſſiduouſly ſought, and ſo highly prized in moſt other Places; but which their Diſpoſitions are too ſerious to loſe any Time in attaining; and which their continual Attention to Matters of Moment, will not permit them to ſet any Value upon, or to conſider in any other Light than at moſt of agreeable Trifles.

UNCEASING Complaints are made, on this Account, by ſuch Travellers as, elate with thoſe frivolous Qualifications, their Time and Money have been laviſhed to obtain, are no leſs piqued than ſurpriſed, to find how little Credit they procure in this blunt, uncomplaiſant Nation; where the Weight of a Man's real Importance is the only Conſideration that produces Regard and Reſpect.

SUCH a Turn of Mind, proves a conſtant, and highly mortifying Check on the Pertneſs and high Pretences of ſundry itinerant Adventurers, whoſe Outſide, however gay, cannot impoſe on thoſe wary Obſervers of the whole Tenour of a Man's Conduct; who are too well acquainted with the ſpecious Characters which ſome of their Neighbours, the French and Germans eſpecially, can occaſionally aſſume, to ſuffer themſelves to be deceived by the faireſt and moſt plauſible Appearances.

BUT as good and bad Qualities are often cloſely allied, it muſt not be denied that this Solidity of Thinking, and Depth of Circumſpection, frequently degenerate into a contemptuous Indifference for all, the Proſperity of whoſe Circumſtances is not well aſcertained.

THE Reaſons of this harſh, uncouth Behaviour are obvious, and may be deduced from the very Nature of their political Conſtitution. As it is through Dint of Wealth alone they ſupport their Country, and make a reſpectable Figure in Europe, they are apt to build too much on that Foundation of their Grandeur, and of Conſequence entertain too exceſſive a Reverence for the Poſſeſſors, and too advantageous an Opinion for the Acquirers of great Property, whom alone they account Men worthy of Note, and whoſe other Qualifications, whether deſerving of Praiſe or Cenſure, are paſſed over little noticed, and become, in a Manner, totally eclipſed by the ſuperior Blaze of their Riches; an Object which, the moſt zealous Partiſans and Admirers of the Dutch, will readily allow, engroſſes their Attention and Eſteem, and preponderates among them far beyond its intrinſic Merit.

IN other Countries an Individual, though reſtrained to a Mediocrity of Fortune, may ſtill appear amidſt the Wealthy, without yielding them any Precedency on that Account; and if his Genius and Parts have rendered him otherwiſe conſpicuous, he will uſually meet, not only with Civility, but even Deference, and find himſelf on a Level with Perſons of Importance by their Rank and Station.

BUT this is by no Means the Caſe in Holland, where Money, however highly it may be valued in other

Countries, is of much greater Conſequence and Eſtimation than in any of them; and, as formerly at Carthage, is the only ſure Road to Power and Preferment. He that has it not, will make but a vain Diſplay of his Talents and Capacity, which, in ſuch a Caſe, will rather become a Matter of Reproach to him for his Neglect of their moſt beneficial Uſe, in not employing them to procure himſelf Conſideration from thoſe Motives whoſe Influence is ſo univerſally acknowledged and felt by all Claſſes of Men.

THUS far, indeed, it is not without ſufficient Cauſe the Dutch, like their Models, in many Inſtances, the ancient Carthaginians, conſider Opulence as a very neceſſary Adjunct in the Enumeration of thoſe Pretenſions, on which a Member of the Community founds his Right of aſpiring to the Rule and Direction of its Concerns; as the greater his perſonal Credit, the leſs Difficulty and Obſtruction will attend his Exerciſe of legal Authority; not to forget that the more materially he is intereſted in the Welfare of his Country, the more it is, undoubtedly, to be preſumed, he will be active in the Preſervation of its Proſperity.

BUT it is, at the ſame Time, no leſs evident, that this prodigious Attachment to Wealth, and the Means of obtaining it, generally baniſhes from their Minds almoſt every other Conſideration, and is the radical Cauſe of that Inurbanity in their Manners, of which Foreigners ſo much and ſo juſtly complain.

As the Acquiſition of Riches forms uſually the ſole End of the Education and Study of Perſons of all Degrees in Holland, they arrive at the Poſſeſſion of their Deſires, uninſtructed in thoſe Methods of enjoying an elegant Receſs from their paſt Labours, that conſtitute, indiſputably, the moſt rational Felicity; and which can only be derived from a competent Cultivation of their Underſtanding in the Seaſon of Youth.

This Careleſſneſs and Slight of intellectual Accompliſhments, is unfortunately very diffuſive; and doubtleſs the Source from whence flows that Averſion and Contempt for whatever bears no Relation to their favourite Purſuit; which renders their Conduct and Deportment, ſo frequently ſupercilious and offenſive to thoſe whom they imagine to be on no Parity with them in that ſubſtantial Article, of which the leſs or larger Proportion that falls to the Lot of each Individual, diminiſhes or encreaſes the Meaſure of Worth and Value, for which they allow him Credit in their Eſtimation.

Instances of this pecuniary Pride are frequent, and conſpicuous among Perſons in the inferior Claſſes, who have riſen to affluent or eaſy Circumſtances; moſt of whom indulge themſelves in a Spirit of Arrogance, which, though commonly inſeparable every where from People of low Breeding who have proſpered in the World, is yet carried here to a ſuperlative Degree of Exceſs.

Even the meaneſt of the Plebeians are poſſeſſed with ſo excluſive a Veneration for Pelf, to the utter Extinction of all other Incitements to Reſpectfulneſs in their Behaviour, that their Inſolence and Rudeneſs are inſupportable to thoſe from whom they have nothing to expect; and unleſs when ſoftened by Views of Profit, or overawed by Authority, they are abſolutely untractable.

This Haughtineſs, reſulting from Opulence, is truly the national Vice of the Dutch; and prevails ſometimes but too viſibly among the firſt Men in the Land; who, elated with thoſe endleſs Gains, which an extenſive Commerce is pouring into their Country from all Quarters, and of which the Diſpenſation is veſted in their Hands, cannot forbear manifeſting an inſulting Conſciouſneſs, how much their Patronage is needed by thoſe numerous Mercenaries of all Denominations, who reſort hither in Want and Expectation of Employment.

These Airs of Importance are by none more frequently experienced than by their military Dependants; in many of whom, the Germanic Pride of Extraction, undergoes the moſt trying Mortifications, from the little Account that is made of it in the rigorous Exaction of Duty, which all muſt expect who enter into their Service; and from which Nobility of Blood is ſo far from pleading an Exemption, that it often ſeems to be ſingled out as an Object of Animadverſion, and deſerving of thoſe Checks, in which they are by no Means ſparing.

Thus, it has been aſſerted, that in Conſequence of ſome Commiſſion in their Army, which either was deſigned to be conferred on, or was actually enjoyed by the late Statholder, in his younger Days, a celebrated Burgomaſter of the Party in Oppoſition to the Houſe of Orange, had the Confidence to propoſe the ſending that young Prince to Batavia.

The ſame Arrogance and Preſumption found its Way into the Deputation of Members appointed to preſide over their Armies in Flanders, while under the Command of the Duke of Marlborough, who often lamented the unhappy Exertion of their diſcretionary Powers, in thwarting the beſt laid Operations, and inſolently propoſing the Execution of their own Schemes: And it is well known that Prince Eugene deteſted the Sight and Admiſſion of them into Council, and uſed to ſay that Alexander and Cæſar owed their Triumphs to the Abſence of Dutch Deputies.

No leſs remarkable was their haughty Treatment of thoſe Princes of the Empire, whoſe Troops and Perſons were in their Pay; to whom, when Buſineſs required their Preſence, they uſed to ſend Summon of Attendance with the ſame Peremptorineſs that a General might aſſume with a Subaltern.

This Knowledge and experimental Conviction of the Aſcendancy of Riches over the human Mind, ſeems never to depart from the Reflexion of Dutch Grandees; and is the Root of that Self Importance which betrays itſelf in their Proceedings, and renders them at beſt rather civil than engaging with their Inferiors in that Point.

Hence that ſociable Intimacy which excludes all Conſiderations but ſuch as are founded on perſonal Agreeableneſs and Merit, is very rare in Holland; where Monteſquieu's Obſervation of the Ties and Connexion between Individuals in England being rather Confederacies than Friendſhips, is ſtill more applicable and appoſite than among us, as their Aſſociations are much more evidently regulated by the reciprocal Proportion of pecuniary Circumſtances.

From this Motive proceeds that indiſcriminate Mixture of ſo many of the higher and lower Sort; between whom a Sympathy ſubſiſts in this Country, unknown elſewhere among the Members of theſe oppoſite Stations in Society; but which is powerfully effected here by that Approximation of all Degrees, which an Equality of Wealth operates in a Nation, where all mere nominal Diſtinctions of Rank are odious, and no Titles, but ſuch as are annexed to Magiſtracy and official Employments, are acceptable. Theſe excepted, Opulence alone ſettles the Precedency, and any other Pretenſions are little minded.

Of this Grandeur and Conſequence founded on the Poſſeſſion of Riches, as no Mortals are fonder than the Dutch, ſo none exceed them in the Eagerneſs of their Endeavours to obtain it; and whatever Truth there is in the Imputation of their heavy, phlegmatic Temper in other Matters, their Activity and Warmth in the

Purſuit of Money, are not inferior to thoſe of the moſt mercurial Nations. When animated by this, their ruling Paſſion, they become abſolutely other Men; and exhibit an Alertneſs and Vivacity, to which they are utter Strangers on other Occaſions.

THIS Thirſt, much leſs of Gain itſelf, than of the Greatneſs and Importance it confers, is the real, genuine Character of the Dutch; as the Poſſeſſion, rather than the Enjoyment of it is apparently the Object of their Aims. Very different herein from the commercial Claſſes in other Parts, England and France particularly, where the End of acquiring Wealth, is the Pleaſure accruing from its Uſe; and where the Practice of hoarding is nothing near ſo frequent as in Holland, where immenſe Riches and immenſe Avarice go very commonly together; and where, in Spite of the moſt flouriſhing Situation, Individuals are not very rarely guilty of living as miſerably as if they were deſtitute of both Means and Hopes of ever proſpering.

BEINGS exactly anſwerable to this Deſcription, are undoubtedly the Produce of all Countries; but Holland is incomparably the moſt fertile of any in this Species; and abounds, beyond any European Nation, with a Race of Men whoſe only Ambition, Pleaſure, Happineſs, and Honour conſiſt in having much Money. Such are, and long have been, according to conſtant unvarying Report, the greater Proportion of the mercantile People there. Intent wholly on amaſſing, they ſuffer but little Interruption from any tranſitory Gratifications; and purſue without Remiſſneſs the laborious Taſk they have undertaken. Watchful of all Opportunities, and embracing all Methods that ſeem promiſſory of Succeſs, they are ſupremely induſtrious in rendering all Things ſubſervient to this main Purpoſe, and far from being delicate in their Choice of Means.

THOUGH Maxims of the ſame Tendency are well known and practiſed every where, yet they are adopted here with much more Prevalence and Latitude, as may well, indeed, be expected in a Country where a keen Appetite for Lucre is ſo far from being diſgraceful, that a Man deficient in that national Characteriſtic, is in no wiſe reputed a valuable Member of the Community.

HENCE it is that a reſtleſs Aſſiduity in Buſineſs, is eſteemed the primeſt Virtue, and that, 'till very lately, a moderate Share of Relaxation and Indulgence in the Paſtimes uſual among the genteel Claſſes abroad, was looked upon with an evil Eye by the Majority of the ſenior Members of the State, whoſe Opinion it was, that ſuch outlandiſh Cuſtoms were ſubverſive of that Diſpoſition to Care and Oeconomy, to which their Welfare, and very Exiſtence, were owing. For this Reaſon, they remained long averſe to their Introduction; and were, at laſt, with no ſmall Difficulty, prevailed upon to allow them a very reſtricted Toleration.

THESE auſtere Notions have ſtill many Abettors among elderly People, and the profeſſed Admirers of their ancient Manners; a rigid Adherence to which would, in their Opinion, highly contribute to the Benefit of the Public.

Conformably to theſe Sentiments, of which the Favourers are numerous, a particular Addiction to any of thoſe foreign Amuſements, is often unreaſonably detrimental to a Perſon's Character, and draws as heavy a Load of Cenſure on it, as a ſettled Courſe of Idleneſs and Diſſipation would give Occaſion for elſewhere.

This Severity and Strictneſs in thoſe who are poſſeſſed of Authority has, however, produced the ſalutary Effect of reſtraining the Propenſity to expenſive Diverſions, and confining them in a Manner, to the only Spot where they cannot prove pernicious to the Generality; as the Hague, where alone they can be ſaid to flouriſh, is a Place of Reſidence only for thoſe who beſt can afford to dedicate their Time to Purſuits of this Nature, which in Truth, ſeem ſo far from congenial to the Temper of the Natives, that were it not for the Concurrence of Foreigners, they would be very little known in this Land of Gravity and Parſimony; where few Recreations are ſet on Foot, but ſuch as are perfectly conſiſtent with the ſtricteſt Frugality; ſuch as a Sunday Receſs from the Occupations of the Week; a ſober Family Viſit; an Afternoon Country Walk, and Refreſhment; or perhaps ſome Game calculated for Exerciſe and Health.

These are the moſt frequent, and to the Honour of the Dutch, the Methods of diverting themſelves they reliſh moſt. For certainly ſuch Pleaſures as are the moſt ſimple, and eaſily procured, are alſo the moſt rational and beneficent, as not being apt to fatigue the Mind, and leave thoſe Impreſſions in the Imagination and Memory, which are the Conſequence of Enjoyments that require Study and Preparation.

A LIKE Sedateneſs and Temperance attend them in their domeſtic Regulations, which form a Rotation of Order and good Conduct, that has the happieſt Influence over all their Affairs.

To this Spirit of Exactneſs and Moderation, it is owing that thoſe Things which, in other Parts, are Incitements to luxurious, expenſive Living, are, in Holland, only the Means of leading, with Convenience and Decency, an eaſy and comfortable Life. Thus the Temptations of Affluence and Succeſs in Buſineſs, cannot induce them to vary from the primitive Plan of parſimonious Carefulneſs to which they were originally bred. Their Houſes and Furniture are neat, without being ſumptuous; their Country Seats elegant, without Grandeur. A ſtated Rule of Proceeding is laid down, and inviolably obſerved in both Places; which, by a well-timed Diſtribution of the different Avocations aſſigned to them, become a ſucceſſive Relief to each other, and render the Viciſſitudes of Buſineſs and Relaxation, equally acceptable.

FROM this ſyſtematic Regularity, proceeds a minute Attentiveneſs to the ſlighteſt Occurrences, that enables them to allow themſelves, with Impunity, thoſe

Indulgences which, through Careleſſneſs and Want of Arrangement, cut ſo deep into the Finances of Individuals in other Countries, and draw after them ſuch a coſtly Train of unforeſeen, and often unnoticed Expences; for the defraying of which (as no previous Calculation was made of them) the Proviſion intended in general, proves inſufficient in the Detail, and uſually occaſions very pernicious Encroachments on the Funds deſtined for more neceſſary Uſes.

Thus we ſee that Equipages, Banquets, Concerts, Aſſemblies, Balls, and the many other Concomitances of what is called High Life, ſeldom, if ever, affect the Circumſtances of Perſons in a genteel Sphere among the Dutch; whoſe excellent Diſcernment in managing with the utmoſt Propriety and Decorum, all theſe Kind of Concerns, is the more admirable, as they poſſeſs the Art of doing it, at once with Oeconomy, and yet with Splendor; and of reconciling at the ſame time, a very ſmall Share of Propenſity to the Exhibition of ſuch Scenes, with an Appearance of Satisfaction and Complacence therein, that ſhews them to be complete Maſters in the Science of accommodating themſelves to all Tempers and Emergencies.

By this Conduct they never fail to engage the Approbation of even the greateſt Connoiſſeurs in Magnificence; who, notwithſtanding their Conviction of the Indifference of the Dutch for external Grandeur, any farther than Policy adviſes it, univerſally agree in pronouncing them as expert in their Notions of Shew and

Parade, when Occaſion requires, as if they acted from Inclination, and Attachment to ſuch Things.

THUS our Charles the Second, who was juſtly admired as a moſt ſkilful *Arbiter Elegantiarum*, Judge of what was elegant, uſed often to declare, that of all the Diſplays of Pomp he had ever ſeen (and he had been Witneſs of many during the Travels of his Exile) none ever came up to the Superbneſs of his Reception in Holland.

THE foreign Miniſters who have reſided among them, and who certainly were Men every Way qualified to give a right Deciſion, have unanimouſly borne Teſtimony to their exquiſite Rectitude of Taſte on all ſolemn Occaſions; and concur in eſteeming the Hague as polite a Place as any in Europe; and the Dutch People of Figure who inhabit it, inferior to none of the faſhionable Claſſes in any other Country, whenever they think it incumbent on themſelves to exert their Talents in the ſame Purſuits.

STRANGERS are, generally, much taken with the Manner of Living there, which has this particular Advantage attending it, that from the Variety of Cuſtoms peculiar to the different Nations, of which ſo many of the genteeleſt and principal Perſonages reſort hither, a judicious Selection has been made that comprehends what is moſt acceptable in each; whence a Foreigner has the Satisfaction of finding himſelf in ſome Meaſure at Home.

The learned, inquiſitive, or polite Traveller cannot but delight in a Metropolis, which, in Proportion to its Dimenſions, can boaſt a larger Concourſe from all Parts, and is fuller of Men of Education, Abilities, and Knowledge of the World, than any City in Europe.

This Aſſemblage of the various Ways and Habits of Mankind within a moderate Compaſs, by ſubjecting them to a perpetual Inſpection, has produced a Spirit of Criticiſm and Examination of their Juſtneſs and Propriety; the Reſult of which has been the forming a Mode of Civility and Intercourſe that may, with good Reaſon, be conſidered as a laudable Medium between the Exceſs and Deficiency in Politeneſs and good Manners, of which ſome Nations are equally guilty in the one, or the other Extreme.

Not leſs agreeable was the Dutch Seat of Government a Century ago, than at preſent. The epiſtolary Correſpondence of ſome very eminent Perſons, in thoſe Days, mentions it as one of the moſt inviting Spots to dwell in, from every Motive that influences a reaſonable Man. St. Evremont, particularly, is laviſh in its Praiſes; and ſpeaks of its Dutch Inhabitants in a Stile full of thoſe Sentiments of Reſpect nothing but real Merit can inſpire; and which are expreſſed in a Manner that ſhews they were not Words of Courſe, but the Effect of deep Inſight and Obſervation of their Conduct and Character.

Other French Writers, much leſs impartial, have repreſented the Dutch in a very unfavourable Light;

and ſpeak of them as being, with very few Exceptions, a rough, unpoliſhed, ill-bred People.

If we aſcend no higher than the vulgar Claſſes, the Aſſertion is altogether true enough; but nothing can be more falſe, if we apply it to the better Sort. They are, it muſt be allowed, leſs inclinable to Society, and leſs tolerant of ſudden Familiarity from Perſons with whom they are unacquainted, than the French, who, as Eraſmus in his *Diverſoria* well obſerves, behave with People, at firſt Sight, *Veluti cum olim Notis ac Familiaribus*, as if they were old Friends and Acquaintance. But ſtill they are ſufficiently affable to ſatisfy a moderate Man, who can be contented with plain Manners, and who ſeeks not in a vain flow of unmeaning Phraſes, an Opportunity of making a ſuitable Return.

The Truth is, the Dutch are, in general, a candid, downright People; and as Application and Induſtry are the only Paths they ſeek to tread in, and the only Helps they chuſe to depend on, they neither ſtudy nor ſtand in Need of any Refinement in their Behaviour, which is uſually attended with much Frankneſs and Simplicity; an Openneſs of Thought and Freedom of Speech, characteriſe moſt of them; and they ſeldom are converſant in Fraud and Deceit, for which indeed their native Bluntneſs very happily diſqualifies them.

This Neglect of the Arts of Inſinuation, or what ſome have not improperly termed Artifice and Flattery, has ſubjected them to the Cenſure of the difficult Part of Mankind, who require Blandiſhments, and a complimentary Stile from all they meet. Theſe Talents they certainly poſſeſs not; but ſtill, if Deeds are preferable to Diſcourſes, there lies no juſt Complaint againſt them for Want of Humanity; in the real Exerciſe of which they are by no Means defective, as abundant Proofs may be given.

THAT they are of a friendly Diſpoſition, and eaſy to live with, is evident beyond Diſpute, from the Number of Strangers who ſettle and proſper there, without exciting any Jealouſy among the Natives; who, perhaps, of all Mankind, are the leaſt tinctured with the Vice of Nationality; and deal their Good-will and Favour indiſcriminately to all who deſerve them, without Inquiries about their Religion or Country. In theſe Reſpects the Dutch, not leſs to their ſingular Emolument than Credit, ſeem to be the People moſt practically ſenſible of the Truth of that fundamental Maxim of all political Felicity, which condemns to Oblivion thoſe Accidents in a Man's Character, which, as he cannot prevent them, he is not anſwerable for.

THEY have been accuſed of Inhoſpitality, and a Shyneſs to Foreigners; but when we reflect on the Frequency of theſe, the Suſpicions that wait on the Characters of many, and the Uncertainty which accompanies that of moſt, it is no more than reaſonable and prudent, they ſhould take Time to ſcan the Merits of their Gueſts, by the only ſure Teſt, that of their Conduct, which when Praiſe-worthy, never fails to entitle them to all the Encouragement they have a Right to expect.

It has alſo been ſaid they are deficient in perſonal Generoſity, and very unwilling to grant pecuniary Aſſiſtance; but this may be partly accounted for by the perpetual Uſe their inceſſant Vigilance and Induſtry are employed in pointing out for their Money; and by the Experience moſt of them have had, that few Perſons, watchful of Opportunities, need ever be driven to the Neceſſity of depending on another's Bounty. Theſe Conſiderations, one may preſume, contribute to harden their Hearts againſt the Solicitations of thoſe Individuals, whoſe Poverty ariſes from Self-Neglect; and who therefore ſtand little or no Chance of any Countenance in Holland; where a manifeſt Continuity of Endeavours to thrive, is the only Recommendation to Patronage, which in Caſe of ſuch a Credential, is not difficult to obtain; as Frowns and Cenſure are never the Portion of Indigence when unmerited, and incurred through the unavoidable Miſchances that will ſometimes befal the moſt prudent. Diſtreſs of ſuch a Nature is always ſure of meeting with Comfort and Relief; and none are abandoned to their evil Deſtiny, but ſuch as are unfortunate through their own Fault. There is no Country where greater Scope is given, as well by public as by private Support and Furtherance, to thoſe Talents whoſe Exertion is the moſt lucrative to the Poſſeſſor; as may be clearly evinced by attending to the Methods practiſed in the ſettling and improving of their Plantations Abroad, and the carrying on many of their commercial Undertakings at Home; both equally profitable, through the Wiſdom of their various Regulations, to all the Parties concerned in theſe ſeldom unſucceſsful Adventures.

Allowing, therefore, ſo that modiſh Vice among them of Complacency and Exultation in their ſuperior Riches, which naturally engenders ſome Degree of Indifference and Slight for ſuch as are Inferiors in this Particular, we are not to refuſe them an Acknowledgment of the many good Qualities which amply counter-balance theſe Defects; which, after all, are but too commonly found every where, and poſſibly fall under ſo much Notice and Cenſure here, only from the greater Number of Individuals in Circumſtances that ſet them above unneceſſary Complaiſance, and that are apt, at the ſame Time, to infuſe a Confidence and Overbearingneſs, which nothing can counteract but thoſe Principles of Gentleneſs and Moderation, inſtilled by a liberal Education; an Advantage very few of them poſſeſs, from the general Neglect in their early Days, of every Thing that is not conducive to pecuniary Profit.

This, to the Dutch, is an Object of the ſame Conſequence, Glory and Conqueſt were formerly to the Romans, and for which their Avidity is equally reſtleſs and impatient. As that military Nation treated, a long Time, Arts and Learning with ſuch Contempt, that *Literae in Homine Romano*, a Man of Letters at Rome, as Cicero tells us, was a Prodigy; and ſuch Attainments were deemed trifling, as being uſeleſs for the great and ſole End of their Politicks; in the ſame Manner, that ſtudious Politeneſs, and thoſe refined Modes of Intercourſe which, though they may be graceful and captivating, are not the Sources from which Wealth is expected to flow, for that Reaſon are held cheap, and accounted frivolous by a commercial People, wholly ingroſſed by that capital Object.

Such a Diſpoſition excludes not, however, the Knowledge and Practice of thoſe Virtues, which are moſt eſſential to Society; and as the Romans, though rude and fierce in their primitive Ages, were yet noble and generous, (never, indeed, more worthy of the two latter Epithets, than when deſerving of the former) ſo the Dutch, in the midſt of that Ardour for Lucre, which is their ruling Paſſion, have ſhewn the moſt real and effectual Attention in promoting whatever could contribute to the ſolid Welfare of every Individual in their Commonwealth.

Their Beneficence and Charity have been of a comprehenſive and a providential Nature; and, by obviating the Introduction of Want and Miſery into their Country, have proved as ſuperior to the Humanity that relieves Diſtreſs, as the Science which prevents Diſorders is above that which cures them.

Thus, by a Chain of Regulations inſpecting with the minuteſt Preciſion into the internal Situation of the State, every component Member thereof, however obſcure and ſeemingly inſignificant, has been made ſubſervient to the public Good, by nipping the Root of Indolence in the Bud, and compelling every one to exert himſelf according to his Faculties.

To this Vigilance over Individuals, was long owing their happy and honourable Exemption from that Diſgrace to a civilized Country, the Toleration of Mendicants; none were ſuffered in Holland, till very lately; and theſe, to do Juſtice to the Dutch Police, are yet ſo few in Compariſon of the Numbers infeſting other Countries, as hardly to give Sanction to any Notice of them.

A SIMILAR Spirit of Watchfulneſs has preſided in every Province and Department, wherein the common Intereſt has been the leaſt concerned. Like the Romans, who thought it not beneath the Dignity of their primeſt Nobles to ſuperintend the Edifices and public Works of their City, and to keep the Roads and Ways in good Order, the Dutch have always confided the Care and Management of whatever related to the Safety, Convenience, or Embelliſhment of their Country, to the moſt diſtinguiſhed Perſons of the State; and how theſe have acquitted themſelves of the Taſk, the Admiration of all Europe can teſtify.

THE Expediency of committing a Charge of this Nature to Men of Rank and Abilities, appears in nothing more than in the Sagacity they have ſhewn by turning to a political Account every Opportunity thrown in their Way. Senſible that Commerce was to be the Foundation of their Country's Proſperity, they have employed all their Thoughts and Endeavours to accompliſh whatever might be of Tendency to its Encouragement. To render Communication and Diſpatch, the chief Promoters of Trade, eaſy and cheap, they have interſected the whole Land with Canals, thro' Means whereof the moſt immenſe Buſineſs is tranſacted with the utmoſt Facility. Theſe alſo produce two other good Effects; they accuſtom their People to Oeconomy and Water-Travelling; not to forget that by placing mercantile Scenes perpetually in their View, they remind them, on every Occaſion, of what an Inhabitant of Holland ought always to bear in his Remembrance, that the Cultivation of Commerce is the main Fund he has to truſt in for his Country's Welfare and his own.

FROM this ſame Source of Circumſpection and patriotic Zeal, has proceeded an Attention to every ſalutary Meaſure purſued by other trading States, in all Ages and Countries; and an expeditious Imitation of every Example that could be advantageouſly followed. Thus they adopted and improved, beyond Compare, the Syſtem of national Banks, firſt invented in Italy, the Mother-Country of all commercial Inſtitutions in modern Times; and that which they eſtabliſhed at Amſterdam ſoon became in the North, what the Model it was originally formed upon, that of Venice, (once the moſt flouriſhing and powerful Republic in Europe) had been ſo long in the South.

CONSCIOUS that Integrity was the ſole Baſis whereon ſo weighty a Fabrick could ſtand with Security and Permanency, they acted ſo as to convince all Nations of the inviolable Fidelity with which a Buſineſs of ſo public and ſo important a Concern was carried on; and anſwerably to their Wiſhes, the prodigious Credit and Reputation to which it ſhortly roſe, nobly rewarded their Efforts to bring ſo vaſt an Undertaking to Strength and Maturity.

THEIR Probity in the Adminiſtration of this precious Truſt, became ſignally conſpicuous; and was illuſtrated to their higheſt Honour, in the dangerous Year Seventy-two, during the laſt Century; when ſurrounded by apparent Deſtruction on every Side, they ſtill maintained, with the ſtricteſt, and to themſelves moſt detrimental Punctuality, at that perilous Time, their Faith and Engagements with all who were concerned in that Repoſitory of Riches; many of whom, in order to augment their Diſtreſſes, and deprive them of the Means of reſtoring their Affairs, were baſely ſet on by the Emiſſaries of their Enemies to withdraw their Shares; to ſay nothing of the Multitudes who were actuated by real Fear to make the ſame Demands. In this Extremity, of which had they made a Plea to temporize and protract the Term of funding, Humanity could not have accuſed them of a Violation of their Contracts, they remained conſtant in their Reſolution not to depart, one Moment, from the moſt rigid Maxims of Honour. Every Proprietor that appeared was inſtantly ſatisfied; and every legal Requiſition was anſwered with a Readineſs and Alacrity that aſtoniſhed all Europe.

A STILL more ſtupendous and daring Project, was that of their Eaſt and Weſt-India Companies, which they formed the bold Deſign of erecting on the Conqueſt of the Settlements poſſeſſed by the Foe during the Space of more than a Century. Obſtacles of various Denominations ſtood in their Way; of which the immenſe Diſtance, and the prodigious Expence, were the leaſt. A Reſiſtance, and that of the moſt obſtinate Nature, was foreſeen, not only from the Principals themſelves, but alſo from the many Nations long habituated to the primitive Tenants, attached to them by the powerful Ties of Conſanguinity and Religion, and filled with Apprehenſions of ſuffering in their Intereſt by a Change of Maſters; as one may well imagine, that no Means were omitted to repreſent the New-comers in as diſparaging and odious a Light as was neceſſary to excite the Malevolence of the Natives againſt them. Add to this, the terrible Burden of a War which was waging at their own Doors, and wherein they were often compelled to fight literally *pro Aris et Focis*, for their very Habitations and Families, and all that is dear to Mankind.

In the midſt of theſe Difficulties, their Behaviour fully refuted the Deſcription which Cardinal Bentivoglio too haſtily gave of their yet infant State, when he calls it *Reſpublica caſu conflata quam Metus Hiſpanorum continet*, a Commonwealth huddled up by Chance, and kept together through Fear of the Spaniards. This Dread of the Power of Spain exiſted, however, but in his own Imagination. Its Strength had been proved to the utmoſt, and found inadequate to the Taſk of overcoming thoſe reſolute Republicans, even when they had been reduced to ſo forlorn a Condition, as almoſt to deſpair of ever retrieving their Affairs; and at a Time when a Member of the then truly diſtreſſed States, (as they ſcrupled not to acknowledge themſelves) prefaced a Speech on their melancholy Situation by the celebrated Line of Virgil, *Sola Salus victis nullam ſperare Salutem,*

Intimating thereby, their only Hopes lay in taking the moſt deſperate Reſolutions.

Such were taken accordingly; and when in Conſequence of the fortunate Effects they produced, their Preſervation was happily ſecured, they undauntedly ſallied forth, and aſſaulted the Enemy in thoſe very Quarters he thought ſafeſt from their Remoteneſs. Thus they carried their Arms into both the Indies; and executed their Plans, not more to the Surpriſe and Terror of their Adverſaries, than beyond their own moſt ſanguine Expectations; and though, through the Concurrence of many unforeſeen Events, but a ſmall Portion remains of their Weſtern Conqueſts, thoſe they retain in the Eaſt, make ample Compenſation for that Loſs: an Empire has been eſtabliſhed Abroad, ſubſervient to the Direction and Command of a ſupreme Authority at Home, which, to the Wonder of all Europe is, by the admirable Skill and Contrivance of their Politicians, ſo formed as to conſtitute an *Imperium in Imperio*, ſo far from interfering with, or obſtructing the Operations of Government, that it has hitherto proved its moſt effectual Support; and may, without Exaggeration, be deemed the principal Pillar of the Grandeur of Holland, which attained in the Courſe of a few Years after its Eſtabliſhment, to that Pitch of Opulence and Proſperity, the great De Wit has ſo circumſtantially deſcribed in his famous Treatiſe on the Intereſt and Politics of his Country; whoſe Riches and Populouſneſs were, in his Time, encreaſed to tenfold what they were a Century before; and whoſe Importance and Dignity went Hand in Hand with that of the moſt conſiderable States in Europe.

While thus attentive to the great Objects of beneficial Conſequence to the Public, none of the ſecondary Mediums inſtrumental to that End were overlooked. Thus they framed the compleateſt Body of Regulations for the good Order both of their naval and military Liſt, that modern Ages had ever yet produced. A Meaſure which, however ſalutary, had till then, been unaccountably neglected by the European Powers; whoſe Fleets and Armies, except in what related to the Field of Action, were, in many Reſpects, utter Strangers to Diſcipline and Regularity.

To inforce this neceſſary Spirit of Obedience and Subordination, Individuals employed in the Trade and Navigation of private Adventurers were ſubjected, in like Manner, to a Courſe of Rules, which though not ſo coercive and ſevere as the former, ſtill were of eſſential Service in reſtraining the ferocious Diſpoſition of theſe rough Claſſes of Men, and inuring them to Tractability and Submiſſion.

The happy Fruits of theſe uſeful Schemes, did full Honour to the Source from whence they ſprung; the decent orderly Behaviour of the Dutch Mariners and Soldiery wherever they are ſtationed, has been exemplary ever ſince; and often proved a Model of Imitation to more than one State, in the northern Parts of Europe eſpecially.

That induſtrious Vigilance and Penetration which lets nothing paſs unnoticed, and foreſees what great Effects may be produced from inconſiderable Cauſes, entered into all their Councils, and led them to diſcuſs Matters with the minuteſt Accuracy, and to avail themſelves of whatever might be ſerviceable, however ſeemingly of ſmall Importance. Thus, by perpetuating the Remembrance of the Dangers they had encountered with ſo much Reſolution, to diffuſe a Spirit of Bravery throughout their People, they carefully encouraged anniverſary Commemorations in ſuch Places as had ſignalized their Zeal in the common Cauſe; and in order to rouſe the Emulation of their own Times ſtill further, by a Retroſpection of the paſt, their Predeceſſors, the ancient Batavians, were artfully recalled to public Notice, and the moſt remarkable and ſhining Paſſages of the valiant Reſiſtance they made againſt the Romans, were engraven by the moſt ſkilful Artiſts, and accompanied with the explanatory Text of *Tacitus*, from whoſe Hiſtory the Subjects were taken. Copies of this Performance were diſperſed among their Neighbours, the Flemings, to awaken the Memory of their former Liberty, and to animate them in favour of a Cauſe that was once their own, of which they could not forget they were the original Aſſertors, and for which they had ſo ſeverely ſuffered.

Notwithstanding the full End propoſed by this, and other Meaſures of the ſame Tendency, did not then take place, yet the Proximity of a free Nation, whereof they had lately made ſo conſiderable a Part, ſo far influenced the Diſpoſition of the Inhabitants of the

Low Countries, as to cheriſh in their Minds a very ſtrong Attachment to their Privileges, and a violent Abhorrence of Oppreſſion. Hence the various Princes, whoſe Subjects they have ſucceſſively been, at different Periods, have treated them with much more Mildneſs than any People of their other Dominions: Leſt by ſtretching Deſpotiſm too far, the Expediency and Facility of throwing off the Yoke, and of forming a Confederacy with the United Provinces, might tempt them to embrace ſo obvious a Meaſure.

In the mean Time, however, the main Deſign the Dutch were aiming to compaſs by the Union they ſo ardently wiſhed and laboured for, of Brabant and Flanders to their Republic, has been brought about ſince, by the famous Treaty, which aſſigned them a ſo long deſired Barrier between them, and the only Power whoſe Neighbourhood they have Reaſon to look upon as formidable.

It ought nevertheleſs to be obſerved, that their Talents for Negociation, of which they had always given undeniable Proofs, were manifeſted, on this Occaſion, in ſo partial and ſelfiſh a Manner, as to raiſe the Jealouſy even of that Ally, under whoſe Auſpices they obtained ſuch an Addition of Honour and Advantage.

But this was not the firſt Time they had given juſt Cauſe for Umbrage at their Proceedings. An Alertneſs in ſeizing every Opportunity to ſecure their Intereſt, to the Excluſion of that of all other Parties, had long been a Vice inherent in their Character. They had ever ſhewn themſelves ſo reſolutely determined to purſue it, to the moſt cruel and irreparable Detriment of all who might happen to come in for a Competition, that ſhortly after their Formation into a political Body, one of the prime Exploits they performed was to ruin at once the Commerce of Antwerp, by ſinking Veſſels loaded with Stones, in the Mouth of the Scheld; thus ſhutting up, for ever, the Entrance of that River to Ships of Burden.

THE Truth is, the Dutch have carried the Selfiſhneſs of Patriotiſm to very immoderate Lengths; and, like the Romans, ſeem to have been fully perſuaded, that *Omnes omnium Caritates una Patria complexa eſt*, that the Love and Partiality for one's Country, ought to ſuperſede all other Conſiderations. Nothing but a Determination to adopt the Practice of this Maxim in its fulleſt Extent, could have induced them to act occaſionally with a Severity which expoſed them no leſs to the lawful Cenſure of the World in general, than to the well-founded Complaints of the Sufferers in particular.

BUT not to dwell on Tranſactions of which the Recollection ought, if poſſible, to be entirely obliterated on either Side, ſuffice it to ſay, that in ſome Inſtances, they made Equity give Way to Intereſt in a Manner totally inconſiſtent with the Rules of Honour and Gratitude, and for which no Atonement could have been too ample, and ſcarce any Chaſtiſement too ſevere.

AND yet Advocates have ariſen in their Defence, who have aſſerted, that as Injuſtice admits of Extenuation when the Perpetrator is compelled, as it were, by Neceſſity, to have Recourſe to it for his Preſervation, ſo by a Parity of Reaſoning, the political Situation of the Dutch was ſuch, as obliged them to let ſlip no Opportunity of eſtabliſhing themſelves at all Events, wherever they had the leaſt Expectation of commercial Profit, on which alone they depended for their Support and their very Exiſtence; that urged by ſuch preſſing Motives, it was no Wonder if they were ſometimes guilty of ſtretching the Power given them by fortunate Accidents, beyond its due Bounds, while other States, whoſe Welfare was not wholly founded upon Trade, by being placed out of the Reach of the like Temptations, have alſo been leſs liable to incur the ſame Guilt.

WITHOUT entering into a Confutation of ſuch an Apology, one may diſmiſs impartially this diſagreeable Subject, by acknowledging that Imputations of this Sort, need not be reſtricted to the Dutch; and that few, if any European Nations, have been completely innocent in theſe Reſpects.

HOWEVER, if we condemn the Conſequences of this reſtleſs Spirit of Avidity Abroad, we cannot but admire the Depth of Policy and Foreſight which countenanced them at Home, and knew how far they might be ſupported and encouraged with Safety, as well as when to retract and diſavow them. To this Art of timing properly their Compliance or Refuſal, they are indebted for no few Succeſſes in many of their commercial Enterpriſes, and the peaceable Enjoyment of numberleſs Advantages, which having found Means to obtain, through Connivance or Remiſſneſs, they at laſt pleaded a Title to through Cuſtom and Preſcription.

Thus, by attending to the Circumſtances of Strength or Inability, their Antagoniſts were in, to enforce their Demands, and by a ſeaſonable Exertion of Prudence, Firmneſs, and Patience, according to the Temper and Genius of thoſe with whom they had to deal, they ſucceſſively baffled the Reſolution, the Policy, and the Reſentment of their Adverſaries; and overcame Difficulties, by contriving to face them ſingly, which they could not have maſtered, had their Opponents taken the Precaution to throw them all together in their Way.

In this Manner they exerciſed their Skill with many a State; and in the univerſal Courſe of their Dealings were ſtill the Gainers, notwithſtanding they certainly were met by no Novices in Politics in theſe Trials of Dexterity; and though many of the Parties they were thus engaged with, eſteemed themſelves far their Superiors in the Science of theſe Subtleties and Fineſſes upon which ſome Stateſmen ſet ſo high a Value.

This conſtant uniform Exertion of their utmoſt Abilities in the ruling Members, for the Service of the Public, was abſolutely neceſſary in order to keep its Attention fixed on the Advantages reſulting from their Labours, and to prevent its Enquiry into the Nature of a Government, the Adminiſtration of which was, by Degrees, becoming purely ariſtocratical. Hence alſo, to obviate the Invidiouſneſs which the Manifeſtation of a Circumſtance ſo grievous to the Feelings of their People might occaſion, they have neglected no Kind of Policy that could contribute to conceal this diſagreeable Truth from common Perception.

To do this effectually they had but two Methods; theſe were an equitable Adminiſtration, and a total Excluſion of that perſonal Diſplay of Authority and Grandeur which chiefly renders Power the Subject of ſo much Envy. Theſe they embraced accordingly, and have ever purſued, with a Perſeverance and Steadineſs that reflect the higheſt Honour on their Conduct; and which the Partiſans of a Democracy muſt allow to have produced as ſalutary Effects, as the beſt imagined Regulations, founded on the moſt free, uninfluenced Concurrence of a whole People, could ever have accompliſhed.

THE Fact is, that this Ariſtocracy of the Dutch, depends intirely on the prudent and impartial Behaviour of thoſe who exerciſe it: whenever the leaſt Tendency to Haughtineſs or Oppreſſion, or to Meaſures contrary to the common Weal have made their Appearance, or been even ſuſpected, the People have taken the moſt unrelenting Revenge.

BUT Cauſes of Diſcontent have been ſo rarely given, that no other Nation has, under a Patrician Government, ever enjoyed ſo much Tranquillity; a Proof of the Temper and Moderation of thoſe in Command, and no leſs of the good Senſe and happy Diſpoſition of the Subjects thus governed; as it certainly ſhews them to be free from Turbulence and Factiouſneſs, and not unwilling to ſuffer the Ambition of a few to prevail, provided the Conſequences be not detrimental to the eſſential Concerns of the whole; a Maxim not ſufficiently attended to by thoſe who aſſert the Neceſſity of an equal Repartition of ſucceſſive Authority among the Members of a State, in order to preſerve its Liberty; an Opinion, the Favourers of which, ſeem too ready to forget that the Motives of many in their Endeavours to become powerful, ariſe not ſo much from a Thirſt of Power, as a Deſire of having the Opportunity to render themſelves conſpicuous, and reſpected for their Services to the Community.

THIS Tractability of the Dutch proceeds not, moſt certainly, from a Daſtardlineſs and Puſillanimity of Spirit. They have given ſignal Evidences of the contrary; and have made the World ſenſible that when provoked, they are very untameable, till their Wrath has had its Vent. Thus when perſuaded that the De Witts were the Cauſes of the Calamities that had brought their Country to the Brink of Perdition, their Outrageouſneſs knew no Bounds; and leſt judicial Proceedings might not ſecond their Reſentments, the mercileſs Populace had Recourſe to an immediate Maſſacre of thoſe equally illuſtrious, and unfortunate Stateſmen.

THE ſame popular Reſolutions, which though tumultuous and wrong principled in the preceding Caſe, were founded on a rational Conviction of their Rectitude, in the latter, placed the late Stadtholder at the Head of the Republic; and though ſome ſuperficial Obſervers have taken Liberties with the Character of the Dutch on account of theſe irregular, and ſeemingly deſperate Proceedings, yet the Experience of

Ages has ſhewn that thoſe rapid and inſtantaneous Determinations of the Body of a People, States have often found their Safety and Renovation.

Few, however, have the Inſurrections been among the Inhabitants of a Country, where Lenity in the Uſe of Power, and a Condeſcenſion to their Wiſhes and Expectations, have always characteriſed their Governors; and where the Cautiouſneſs of theſe in avoiding the moſt diſtant Poſſibilities of giving Offence, is carried ſo far as even to ſhun, with the utmoſt Studiouſneſs, that Appearance of Superiority which the exterior Forms of State uſually annex to Individuals in high Stations. Hence, notwithſtanding the Reality of their Importance, the Burgo-Maſters, and other Perſons in eminent Poſts, affect a Plainneſs and Simplicity in their Manners and Stile of Living, that takes away the Idea of their uncontroulable Supremacy; while, at the ſame Time, they govern with an abſolute Sway, and confer all civil Places and Employments on whom they think proper; and with ſuch a Plenitude of Power, as to gratify their neareſt Relations and Friends, without exciting any Complaint, or even Diſſatisfaction.

The Reaſon of this Acquieſcence, and Forbearance to find Fault with the Conduct of their Magiſtrates, is, that Riches being the Title by which a Connexion is procured with the greateſt ruling Families, the induſtrious, who conſtitute the major and leading Part of the Nation, ſee no Excluſion to their Hopes of becoming, in their Turn, of ſufficient Conſideration to riſe by ſuch Means to Importance and Command. In the mean Time, as their Pride is not hurt by thoſe Exhibitions of Sovereignty, and official Splendor ſo prevalent in other Nations, and Equality of Opulence inducing a Familiarity of Behaviour that ſupercedes the Dignity of Employments, except in the very Act of fulfilling them, the Authority and Weight of thoſe who poſſeſs them, is not ſeen or felt in any Manner but what ſhews them on the ſame Level with thoſe over whom they preſide, by the Parity of Obedience they profeſs to their own Ordinances, in common with their fellow Subjects, and by the reſpectful Attribution of ſole Empire and Majeſty to the Laws; as the Executors of which only they pretend to, and expect Submiſſion and Compliance, and not as deriving ſuch Claims from any Right of Dominion inherent in themſelves.

Such are the popular and judicious Methods by which the patrician Intereſt is upheld in Holland, and flouriſhes unenvied, and almoſt unperceived.

Conformably to theſe Maxims, in their very Beginnings, a few leading Men, by avoiding all Appearance of ſupreme Command, and by arrogating no external Marks of Pre-eminence, inſinuated themſelves into the favourable Opinion and good Graces of their Fellow-Citizens; who, charmed with their Affability, and with the Simplicity of their Deportment, ſaw no more in them than the laborious, indefatigable Servants of the Public. Thus the Plainneſs and Frugality of a Barnevelt, and his illuſtrious Aſſociates, excited, at once, the Admiration and Reſpect of Europe; and what was of much greater Conſequence to the common Cauſe, attracted the Imitation and Confidence of his Countrymen, who were convinced there could be no Danger in reſigning themſelves, with the utmoſt Implicitneſs, to Men who gave ſuch Proofs of their Contempt for all empty Parade, as were a ſufficient Earneſt of their harbouring no Deſire of accumulating the Means to ſupport it.

So forcible a Diſplay of patriotic Diſintereſtedneſs was, indeed, neceſſary at a Time when every Virtue allied to Parſimony and Self-denial, was requiſite to make the moſt of a Stock that aroſe from nothing but extreme Toil and Induſtry; and when a Shew of Equality, and a Spirit of ſocial Benignity, were abſolutely indiſpenſible to cement all Degrees in a Cordiality of Union.

These great Examples left ſuch profound Traces in the Memory of thoſe who had been Witneſſes of them, that a traditional Rule was formed, and handed down to Poſterity, whereby the following of them has been made a Kind of tacit Law, from which, to the very peculiar Honour of the Dutch, there are few, if any Inſtances, of Deviation.

Hence, in ſucceeding Times, long after the Foundations of their Republic had been laid on the firmeſt Baſis, and the nobleſt Superſtructure erected upon them, at an Epocha when they were become the powerfulleſt Nation at Sea, and the wealthieſt People at Land of any in Europe, we find that, like the ancient Romans, in the glorious and triumphant Periods of the Commonwealth, when they vanquiſhed a Pyrrhus and a Hannibal, and brought the Grecian Empire under Subjection, they ſtill retained their primitive Manners in the midſt of every Temptation to deſert them. Thus, while a Van Tromp, a De Ruyter, and many other memorable Names, were aſſerting the Honour of their Flag, and carrying the Terror of their maritime Force through ſo many Seas, and while, at the ſame Time, their Treaſures ſeemed inexhauſtible, from the prodigious Sums they continually expended in defending themſelves ſo vigorouſly on every Side, and in the generous Aſſiſtance and Protection of their Allies, ſtill the Heads of the State ſought no other perſonal Luſtre, but that which reſulted from their Actions and Councils, and reſerved all Grandeur and Magnificence for public Occaſions. The great De Wit, the Soul of all their Politics, a Man whoſe Character ſtood on a Parity with that of Monarchs, ſcarcely ever uſed an Equipage; and had no other domeſtic Attendance than that of a private Gentleman.

In Imitation of ſuch excellent Models, all other Individuals conducted themſelves with an Oeconomy and Moderation that became proverbial throughout the European Nations; and was the more aſtoniſhing, as they poſſeſſed the Means of Luxury beyond them all.

But their Temperance and Averſion to all Exceſſes, were always no leſs conſpicuous than their Affluence; and it is the ſingular Praiſe and Glory of the Dutch that, as the Carthaginians were of old, they have been the only People in modern Ages, among whom Riches have not wrought their uſual Effect, that of introducing Effeminacy and Prodigality.

THIS Spirit of Abſtemiouſneſs, ſo uncommon elſewhere, continues in full Force to this Day; and the Meetings of the States, at the Hague, are held with ſuch a Stillneſs, and Abſence of Pomp and Oſtentation, as ſurpriſes thoſe Foreigners who have ſeen the Pageantry exhibited in their own and other Countries, on much leſs important Emergencies.

IT is this Neglect of the Decorations and Trappings of Ambition, that enables them to indulge in the Enjoyment of a real and ſolid Power; of which, however, it cannot be denied, their Exerciſe is ſo equitable, that no Burdens of any Kind are impoſed, of which they bear not their full Proportion; and whether in ancient or latter Times, Hiſtory mentions no Government where a more impartial Equality of Taxes was ever known.

TO the Knowledge and clear Perception of this Conduct is owing the great Authority and Credit of the Rulers in Holland, and not to a blind and ignorant Prejudice in their Favour.

PREPOSSESION is by no Means the Failing of the Dutch; when a Man obtains Popularity among them, it muſt be through actual Services. Oratorial Declamations are little regarded, and the perſonal Merit of the Speaker only can give Weight to what he ſays. Hence, as their phlegmatic Diſpoſition effectually prevents

vents their Submiſſion to the undue Influence of rhetorical Artifice, inflammatory Publications avail nothing to the Party from whence they proceed, unleſs the Aſſertions they contain are conſiſtent with the ſtricteſt Veracity, and univerſally avowed. As the People are too cool and wary to be led away by mere Speciouſneſs of Reaſoning, Facts are the only Objects of their Conſideration, and from theſe alone they form their Judgment; nor from theſe, until they are well verified.

From this happy Cautiouſneſs of Temper, and Backwardneſs to decide, unleſs on ſure Grounds, perſonal Fame is far from being ſo ſubject to Uncertainty and Fluctuation in Holland, as in other Countries; where an Individual experiences frequently ſuch Viciſſitudes of Approbation and Cenſure, of Contempt and Applauſe, as to become, at laſt, inſenſible to either; a Situation of Mind fatal to the Cauſe of Virtue, whoſe Exiſtence, in no ſmall Meaſure, depends not only on the Pleaſure of Conſciouſneſs, but on the Reward it receives from a good Reputation; and fatal therefore to the State itſelf, whoſe Welfare and Proſperity is owing to the Endeavours of thoſe who are concerned in its Management to merit the Eſteem and Suffrages of the Public; but who, on finding its Praiſe or Blame injudiciouſly and raſhly beſtowed, will undoubtedly remit of their Zeal and Eagerneſs to purſue its real Intereſts; and in order to preſerve themſelves from the general Odium, and remain acceptable to the Multitude, will make it their Study rather to pleaſe than to ſerve their Country.

THE Reflexion how much, nay, how entirely, their Importance and Sway are founded on the favourable Opinion of the People, is doubtleſs the Cauſe of thoſe perpetual Efforts to deſerve it, that are ſo conſpicuous in all who are intruſted with public Affairs in Holland. Hence the Aſſiduity and Diligence with which every Department is adminiſtered, each Incumbent faithfully directing his ſtricteſt and moſt vigilant Attention to the Duty of his reſpective Office, and allowing himſelf but few of thoſe pleaſurable Avocations, which in Governments leſs carefully regulated, are conſidered as ſo many Privileges and Benefits annexed to Preferment.

THE ſmall Portion of Leiſure remaining from the Calls of Buſineſs, affords, indeed, but few Opportunities for Indulgences of this Nature; as notwithſtanding there is no State whatever where a greater, if an equal Degree of Circumſpection prevails in providing for the moſt ample and complete Diſcharge of every Function neceſſary for the well-being of the Community, yet that Genius of Frugality which inſpires the Individuals of this Country in their private Tranſactions, preſides with no leſs Influence in what relates to the common Concern; and in the Diſtribution of the various Poſts and Stations intended for the carrying on of the public Service, has admitted of none ſuperfluous; none of thoſe ſo well known in other Parts, and ſo properly denominated Sine-cures. Even in the Eſtabliſhment of ſuch as were of abſolute Uſe and Neceſſity, no Indulgence has been granted to the Love of Eaſe, by enlarging their Number, in order to leſſen their Toil; a ſufficient Degree of which is aſſigned to allEmployments to keep fully alive the Spirit of Labour, and to exclude all Incitements to Diſſipation.

THIS Talent of Parſimony, though made ſo commonly an Object of Ridicule by their Neighbours, is, in Reality, a Fund from whence they have drawn the moſt eſſential Reſources; not more to their own Emolument, than to the Surpriſe of thoſe very Strangers who make ſo free with their Character, until by a nearer Acquaintance and Examination they are taught at laſt to reverence what their Ignorance led them at firſt to deſpiſe.

FROM this judicious Thriftineſs they derive the chief Support of that invincible Induſtry, for which they are ſo deſervedly celebrated beyond all the reſt of Mankind. It is only by maintaining the ſtricteſt Alliance between both, they have ſucceeded in thoſe prodigious Undertakings, wherein their Ingenuity is ſo remarkably diſtinguiſhed by rendering the Untowardlineſs and Perverſity of Nature ſubſervient to the moſt beneficial Purpoſes, effected almoſt againſt Expectation, and in the midſt of numberleſs Diſcouragements, through Dint of the moſt obſtinate Labour, and the moſt ſagacious Management.

SENSIBLE of the inexhauſtible Energy of theſe united Qualities, they had the Courage to commence, and the Conſtancy never to recede, till they had perfected the ſtupendous Work of draining their Country of thoſe immenſe Deluges of Water that had overflowed ſo large a Part of it for the Space of Ages.

BESIDE this truly noble and marvellous Atchievement, they have with no leſs Application and Fatigue, contrived to bring under their Subjection and Command, the Rivers and Seas that ſurround them, (formerly ſuch perpetual Objects of Terror and Alarm) and to make them the principal Bulwarks on which they rely for the Protection and Safety of their Territories againſt the Danger of an Enemy. This they have done by covering their Frontiers and Cities with innumerable Sluices, through Means of which, at the ſhorteſt Notice, the moſt rapid Inundations are let in, and they become in a few Hours inacceſſible.

THE ſame Attention and Diligence, aſſiſted by a ſtudious unremitting Oeconomy, accompanies them equally in Affairs of leſs, as well as in thoſe of greater Moment; thus, among many other Inſtances, in order to ſave the Trouble and Coſt of Freight that would enſue, were Ships and Men employed ſolely for ſuch a Purpoſe, they direct the Importation of Marble by Way of ballaſting their homeward bound Veſſels from Italy; by which, not leſs dexterous than parſimonious Method, there is an Abundance both in their public and private Buildings, that juſtly ſurpriſes a Foreigner who reflects that no Quarries of it are found in Holland.

THIS ſaving Diſpoſition has, however, no Influence over them, when they are aware it would prove detrimental to the general Intereſt; and to the particular

Commendation of the Dutch, they perfectly know how to reconcile themſelves to the moſt conſiderable and moſt burthenſome Expences, when Times and Occaſions demand them. Hence the vaſt Fleets and Armies they have at different Periods maintained. Hence the grand and copious Arſenals that abound in their Provinces; and which, till lately, were not equalled by the greateſt States in Europe. And hence, what is much more amazing in a commercial Nation, that heroic Patience, with which they ſubmitted to thoſe prodigious Loſſes that were the foreſeen and unavoidable Conſequences of the Submerſion of their Country, in order to preſerve it from the French.

A MANLY Fortitude in the encountering chearfully with Difficulties, and in ſuffering Diſtreſſes without Deſpondency, is the peculiar Charaſteriſtic of that People, not leſs in their private than in their public Concerns. Proofs of this are numberleſs, in the Multiplicity of their arduous Enterpriſes to compaſs Eſtabliſhments Abroad, in Places where leſs patient Adventurers had failed; and where the laborious Perſeverance of Individuals was the only Ground-work of Succeſs.

NO Ways inferior to this unyielding Firmneſs in purſuing what they have once begun, is the Calmneſs and Reſignation with which they meet a Change of Fortune; a Species of Magnanimity for which they have been long and deſervedly celebrated. Strada, no Friend to their Cauſe, and who wrote at no great Diſtance from the Foundation of that Republic, under the Influence, and one may fairly ſay the Eye and Direction on of Spaniſh Intereſt and Councils, could not yet refrain from doing them Juſtice on this remarkable Particularity; and in his Hiſtory of the Low Country Wars, employs purpoſely a very circumſtantial Paſſage to that Effect.

THIS Steadineſs and Serenity of Mind, contributes to render them, perhaps, the eaſieſt and moſt contented of Mortals. For as they are, at the ſame Time, conſtitutionally Strangers to thoſe Tranſports of Exhilaration, ſo prevalent in other more ſanguine and mercurial Nations, they are alſo leſs liable to be oppreſſed by that more than equal Counterpoiſe of Heavineſs and Gloom, which is ſo commonly the Price of theſe ſhort-lived Enjoyments.

FROM theſe Cauſes, no People whatever poſſeſs more of that intellectual Happineſs, conſiſting in Æquanimity; which, though it be not abſolutely the ſuperlative Degree of Felicity, yet, conſidering it is leſs liable to Interruption from the Caſualties incident to human Nature, is, on that Account, a Situation far preferable to it.

WHEN we reflect on the Peace of Mind reſulting from the Abſence of thoſe Paſſions, whoſe Objects are out of the Circle of ordinary Wants and Deſires, we need not envy thoſe whoſe Lot it is to compaſs their moſt delightful Gratifications; as on comparing the Inconveniencies ariſing from their Tranſitorineſs, with the temporary Advantages they procure, we ſhall probably find the former to preponderate; and acknowledge, on due Examination, that a State of Tranquility, equally excluſive of the Exceſſes of Joy or Grief, is, from the Vigour and Stability it confers on the Faculties, far more eligible than a Condition admitting alternately of much Pleaſure and much Pain; of which the frequent Viciſſitudes cannot fail to harraſs and convulſe the Soul, and greatly diſturb the Oeconomy of our whole Syſtem.

THE Fact is, the Dutch are very ſtrict Obſervers of the Precept which Horace, who certainly was a competent Judge of Life, lays down as the prime Rule of Beatitude, in his Epiſtle to Numicius, which he begins by aſſerting, as a Truth repeated Experience had fully taught him, that,

Nil admirari prope Res eſt Una
Solaque quæ poſſit facere et ſervare beatum;

Not to admire, an Art too little known, is yet the only Way to attain and preſerve Happineſs. Not that his Meaning was to deprive Merit of the Praiſe and Eſteem it naturally commands, nor that Mankind ſhould refuſe themſelves the Pleaſure of Feeling and expreſſing their Satisfaction at thoſe Objects that made agreeable Impreſſions on their Minds and Senſes, but that they ſhould not ſuffer their Attention to dwell ſo long on them, as to become enamoured of ſuch Kind of Charms as it lay not in their Power to obtain the Poſſeſſion of; nor by a thoughtleſs Condeſcenſion to groundleſs Notions, be induced to rate things above their real Worth.

WITH this Maxim, though perhaps not in Speculation, yet in Practice, no People are more thoroughly acquainted than the Dutch; in whom few Objects are able to excite thoſe Raptures of Admiration and Applauſe, that are ſo common elſewhere. They view Things, not indeed with abſolute Indifference, but with a Coolneſs that ſets no more than their juſt Value on them; and does not permit the Inſpector to be hurried away with vain Opinions of their Tranſcendency. Hence, they are but little delighted with thoſe far-fetched and dear-bought Modes and Devices of Luxury, for the Enjoyment of which ſo much Time and Expence are laviſhed by their nicer, and more curious and refined Neighbours: if ſuch Epithets are applicable to thoſe who have altered the Nature of Merriments and Diverſions, and inſtead of conſidering and uſing them as Relaxations, have methodiſed and converted them into a Buſineſs.

Few, therefore, among the Dutch, are captivated with theſe fleeting Gaieties, or care to beſtow their Money on ſuch Articles as are of no Solidity and Permanence. This is the principal Aim in all their Purſuits; and they are much more ſolicitous to ſecure the Means of living comfortably, than to launch into that Profuſion and Parade, to which the Acquiſition of Wealth is ſo powerful a Temptation in moſt other Nations; who ſeem to think Felicity imperfect unleſs it is graced with collateral Embelliſhments, and ſurrounded by a Crowd of Witneſſes. Far different herein from the Dutch, who ſeek it purely for its own Sake, and are very careleſs of thoſe Concomitances of Splendor, that invite a Multitude of Gazers.

This is particularly evident, from the Simplicity of their Paſtimes, which are moſtly centered within the Circle of their domeſtic Intimates and familiar Acquaintance;

tance; and ſtill more from the little Propenſity to Coſtlineſs they ſhew in the Decoration of their Houſes; the chief, and often the ſole Merit of which is Neatneſs. Thoſe architectural Ornaments and ſtudied Regularities, on the minuteſt Obſervance of which the wealthy in other Countries are ſo ſcrupulouſly intent, and conſider as ſo many Proofs of their ſuperior Taſte and Knowledge in the Art of Grandeur, are, in this Land of Parſimony, in no wiſe looked upon as making an eſſential and neceſſary Part in the Expences of even the moſt opulent Individuals; and are therefore appropriated only to public Structures.

Hence on the Banks of thoſe numerous Canals that diffuſe Riches and Plenty throughout the Land, amidſt the many Edifices that in a Manner crowd them, a rural Decency conſtitutes uſually their utmoſt Beauty; and though they fully demonſtrate the Inhabitants of the Towns in the Neighbourhood of which they are ſituated, to be in proſperous Circumſtances, yet they prove them, at the ſame Time, equally converſant in the Science of Oeconomy, and not ſo deſirous of living ſumptuouſly, as agreeably. Nay, even in their moſt opulent and commercial Cities, it is not uncommon to ſee their greateſt Merchants, *logés à l'etroit* as the French very properly expreſs it, pent up in a narrow Habitation; and what is ſtill more, quite ſatisfied with it. The modern Improvements in the commodious Diſtribution of Apartments, are but little conſulted. The Conveniencies, ſo judiciouſly contrived in England, and the Elegancies ſo ingeniouſly deviſed in France, are almoſt totally neglected; and, in ſhort, the Syſtem they obſerve in their Methods of Dwelling, is generally what a Perſon of Fortune, in either of thoſe two Nations, would eſteem far unequal to his Importance.

But it is in this very Abſence of Pomp and Sumptuouſneſs the Dutch have always prided themſelves; and when we advert to the much greater Rarity of Failures and Bankruptcies among them, than among their more lively and magnificent Neighbours, we muſt allow their Notions approach much nearer to Rectitude in theſe Matters, and are ſubject to very little Cenſure; no more, indeed, than that of betraying too much Diffidence, and uſing too many unneceſſary Precautions in the tranſacting of Buſineſs; and of not availing themſelves, with a proper Degree of Indulgence, of the Bounties Fortune has ſo unſparingly, and to their Praiſe be it added, ſo deſervedly conferred on Numbers of them.

However, as Errors of ſuch a Nature can effect no Detriment, either to the private Welfare of thoſe who commit them, or to that Public of which they are Members, they ſhould not be ſo ſeverely animadverted on, as they have unjuſtly been by many inconſiderate Foreigners, who ſeem to forget the Conſequences of that Spirit of Profuſion which revels with ſo much Licentiouſneſs among ſuch Numbers of their Countrymen, whoſe Incomes but ill ſuit with their Extravagance: Conſequences the more pernicious and difficult to prevent, as they have unhappily been made a Subject of national Boaſt.

THUS an Imitation of the Way of Life, led by the Grandees in a Nation, has been the ultimate View, and too faithful Practice not leſs of ſuch as were labouring to accumulate a Fortune, than of thoſe who had compaſſed their Wiſhes. And hence too, the Sinews of a State have been relaxed, not only by the Diſſipation of thoſe Funds in idle Purſuits, that ought to have been conſecrated to the Purpoſes of Commerce, but alſo by the untimely Retreat from the Field of Buſineſs of many, the Date of whoſe Years, or the Situation of whoſe Circumſtances, could afford them no Pretence to claim a Diſcharge from their Labours; but who were impatient to figure in a Sphere, which Pride repreſented as more honourable, or Indolence pointed out as a Refuge from Fatigue.

WHATEVER Encomiums the Unthinking may beſtow on the Conduct of ſuch as chuſe, in the Strength and Vigour of Life, to retire from the Hurry of worldly Concerns, it certainly proceeds in common, much more from a Spirit of Vanity, or a Paſſion for Eaſe, than from Moderation and Content; the true Nature of which does not conſiſt in a Renunciation of thoſe Scenes of Activity we are engaged in for the Advancement of our Fortune, but in a chearful Acceptance of the Advantages reſulting from them, though unequal to our Expectation, or inadequate to the Induſtry we have exerted in the Proſecution of our Schemes.

A CAPITAL Motive in Holland, why Perſons whoſe Vocation is commercial, ſeldom think of a Retirement from Buſineſs, while their Continuation in it is attended with no Inconveniency, is that no Station in Society is productive of more Credit and Reſpect, than that of an Individual whoſe Diligence and Sagacity in Trade have raiſed him to Opulence. This gives him an Equality of Weight in all ſubſtantial Concerns, with the firſt of his Fellow-Subjects; among whom the Sneers and Sarcaſms, with which Envy or Levity attack Meanneſs of Birth, and Obſcurity of Family in moſt other Parts, ſo virulently and ſo unjuſtifiably, are but very little known or countenanced; and whoſe Favour and Eſteem are the ſure Rewards of a ſucceſsful Application to his Calling.

THIS Conſideration, which we may well ſuppoſe is never abſent from the Minds of Men who daily ſee how rightly it is founded, proves doubtleſs, a powerful Incentive to Perſeverance in ſo promiſing a Career; from which, accordingly, few of them ever depart, not even when their Ambition has met with its ampleſt Gratifications, and when in the Courſe of thoſe Preferments, of which their indefatigable Induſtry laid the Foundation, they are at laſt become Men of prime Rank and Dignity in the State.

THE main Spring from whence flows this general Felicity of Endeavours to proſper, the happy Talent of avoiding unneceſſary and uſeleſs Expences, is not only the Praiſe of the mercantile and laborious Claſſes, but equally of thoſe whoſe native Patrimony is ſufficiently conſiderable to procure them all Indulgences; who, though exempted from the Solicitude and Care requiſite to raiſe one, are nevertheleſs, obſervant of an Orderlineſs and Oeconomy in the Management of their Income, to which the Inheritors of Eſtates in moſt other European Countries, are too fatally Strangers. Whence it happens, that while theſe are ſquandering them without Meaſure, and often in the moſt ignominious Manner, thoſe are enjoying a decent and reaſonable Portion of all ſuch Pleaſures as leave no Sting behind, from the Recollection of their Coſt, or of their Impropriety; ſuch Pleaſures, indeed, as to Perſons of a depraved Taſte, or a wild Imagination, would hardly appear deſerving of the Name; but which, to a Life of Sobriety and Temperance, are of infinite Value, by the Tranquillity and Eaſe that accompany their Purſuit, which has nothing in it of that Vehemence and Eagerneſs, which diſquiet a Mind too much taken up with Paſtimes, and apt to view them as Objects worthy of a ſerious Attention. Another happy Reſult of this moderate and circumſpectful Diſpoſition, is, that while in England, in France, and in other Countries, where Scenes of Prodigality are frequent, Fortunes are perpetually going to wreck, and genteel Families are daily reduced to Indigence, in Holland, through a cautious and moſt laudable Abſtinence from whatever has a Tendency to Careleſſneſs and Profuſion, no Waſte is ſuffered in any Article, however ſlight and diminutive; and by the continual Practice of this Savingneſs, on all Occaſions, no inconſiderable Sums are laid up in the Courſe of Years out of middling Revenues, and a decent Proviſion is made, at the ſame Time, for all domeſtic Emergencies.

From theſe Premiſes it may with great Reaſon be aſſerted, that in whatever relates to the Management of pecuniary Affairs, the Dutch are indubitably the moſt completely expert of any People; as to the Knowledge of acquiring Wealth, they unite the no leſs neceſſary Science of preſerving it. No Country, therefore, can vie with theirs in the Number of thoſe Inhabitants whoſe Lot, if not Riches, is at leaſt a comfortable Sufficiency; a Circumſtance naturally ariſing from the univerſal Habit of Carefulneſs and Order, that characteriſes them ſo ſtrongly; and the Exerciſe of which is ſo diffuſive and popular, that a contrary Turn of Mind is a kind of Exotic but little known, and when diſcovered, ſingled out as highly cenſurable and defamatory.

Hence, in the midſt of a World of Taxes and Contributions for the public Exigencies, ſuch as no other Country whatever experiences, and of which Foreigners, till acquainted with the interior Polity of this Republic, entertain no adequate Idea, they flouriſh and grow rich, and attain to a Degree of Proſperity few Parts of the World can boaſt, under ſuch Diſcouragements, as other Nations would deem inſupportable, even thoſe ſubjected to the moſt deſpotic Governments.

This is a Truth, at which Lewis the Fourteenth was often ſtruck with Admiration, when he compared the Burthens he laid on his People, to thoſe the Dutch loaded themſelves with, and found how diſproportionably heavier the latter were; but the Elucidation of ſuch a Fact was too dangerous to be attempted, and it remained a Myſtery which his Courtiers, however clearly they might comprehend it, never durſt explain to a Monarch, who had the Vanity to think his Adminiſtration as mild and conducive to the Intereſt of Individuals, as any that could poſſibly be framed; and whoſe Opinion, therefore, was not to be contradicted with Safety by ſuch as meant to continue in his Favour.

THE Loſs of this muſt certainly have been incurred by any Miniſter, whoſe Honeſty and Courage might have prompted him to ſet forth the Cauſes that gave Birth to the Subject of his Wonder, by developing the different Kinds of Aſcendancy, which the Enjoyment of political Freedom, or a State of abſolute, unlimited Obedience, have over the human Mind; and by ſhewing how much the firſt elevates and inſpires it with Reſolution to exert itſelf to the utmoſt, by the Proſpect of that Security, which is the very Life of all our Efforts to thrive and ameliorate our Condition; and how much the ſecond depreſſes it, and damps its Vigour and Endeavours, by the Reflexion on the Precariouſneſs of our Situation, however proſperous and ſucceſsful our Induſtry may have made it.

SUCH an Expoſition of Facts, connected with, and deduced from Principles which none but Tyrants and their Abettors, will call in Queſtion, would have accounted for the Poſſibility that ambitious Prince had ſuch frequent Reaſons to marvel at, that a State, whoſe Extent of Territory ſcarce amounted to a fifteenth Part of his Dominions, ſhould yet dare bid him Defiance; that unſupported, abandoned, nay even aſſaulted with equal Injuſtice, and bad Policy, by another no leſs formidable Neighbour, they ſhould have Strength enough to withſtand his whole Power at Land, and prove ſo ſuperior to him at Sea, as to oblige him to rely entirely on the Aſſiſtance of their only Rivals on that Element. He then would have diſcovered by what Means they were able to bear ſo conſiderable a Part in that glorious Alliance, which put a final Period to the Career of half a Century's Succeſſes; and by a Series of Victories, wherein they juſtly claimed a moſt honourable Share, deſtroyed his Fleets, and totally ruined his Marine Eſtabliſhments; and ſo deciſively defeated and vanquiſhed his Armies, that he had at laſt no other Reſource left him but to implore the Clemency of his Enemies, by ſuing for Peace on the moſt humiliating Terms.

WELL, indeed, might he teſtify his Surprize, when he ſaw the Dutch, whom he ever affected to undervalue, and treat with Contempt and Scorn, maintaining in this celebrated Contention, one hundred and fifty thouſand Men, and upwards of eighty Ships of the Line; a Force, to ſupport which, beſides other weighty Contingencies, the Sums they levied were hardly inferior to the immenſe Charges occaſioned by the prodigious Number of his Troops.

WHEN a People emerge but occaſionally from Obſcurity, and only ſignalize themſelves in a tranſitory Manner, ſuch Events may be owing to the ſuperior Abilities alone of thoſe extraordinary Characters, which every Age and Nation ſometimes produce. Thus the Genius of Epaminondas, gave the Supremacy over all Greece to his Countrymen, the Thebans; who, immediately on his Death, relapſed into their former Inſignificancy. In the ſame Manner, Timoleon rendered the Syracuſans, before and after him, the Prey of Tyrants, no leſs dreaded and invincible. In the laſt Century the Swedes, under Guſtavus Adolphus, and in the Beginning of the preſent, the Ruſſians, under Peter the Great, made both a Figure to which they were Strangers before, and have been ever ſince. Thus, in our own Days, an illuſtrious Monarch, through the indefatigable Exertion of the moſt amazing Capacity, has procured a Luſtre to his Crown, and a Reputation to the military Virtues of his Subjects, which, being founded on his perſonal Talents only, and not owing to any peculiar Excellence in the Frame of their Government, are not expected to out-live him, unleſs a Succeſſor of equal Merit ſhould ariſe.

This tranſient Greatneſs of Empires and Nations, may alſo be formed by the fortuitous Concurrence of thoſe favourable Accidents, which, without the Intervention of profound Policy, or heroic Actions, effect at once the Grandeur of a State. Thus, from the Marriage of Iſabella of Caſtile, with Ferdinand of Arragon, and of their Daughter to the Heir of the Houſe of Auſtria, together with the caſual Diſcovery of America, proceeded the ſudden and inſtantaneous Importance of Spain, which, while theſe Cauſes operated, took the Lead, and was the capital Agent throughout Europe; but on their Ceſſation, ſoon declined; and in Proportion to the Decreaſe of theſe adventitious Helps, gradually fell away to a Situation of Debility, that was accelerated by the Rulers of that Monarchy, miſtaking the Sources of their former Power, and attributing it to the genuine intrinſic Strength and Spirit of the Nation; whence they were led into Enterprizes that quickly convinced them of the Inability of Spain, when dependent on the ſole Vigour of its Government and People, to ſupport and give Succeſs to great Deſigns.

But, when a Country, long hidden from the Attention of the World, and intrinſically of the moſt diminutive Weight in the Scale of Politics, makes its Way through ſurrounding Obſtacles; and againſt all Expectation and Probability, maintains its Ground in Spite of the moſt powerful and inveterate Oppoſition; when in the midſt of Preſſures of every Kind, it advances daily, by ſteady and uniform Steps, to Proſperity; and arrives, at laſt, to a Degree of Might and Dignity ſuperior, on Compariſon of the Means, to that of every other Nation whatever, ; when theſe Tranſactions are not limited to the Duration of a few Years, but afford Matter for the Annals of two Centuries; when the Spirit and Wiſdom from which they originated exiſt and flouriſh in full Force; and there are no other apparent Motives to apprehend the Downfall of this noble Fabric, but ſuch as are drawn from the Frailty concomitant on all the Works of Man; when Facts of this Nature conſpire in Favour of a People, then, indeed, it is no longer to the accidental Effulgence of the temporary Abilities of any Individual, or to the ſpontaneous Concourſe of fortunate Caſualties, that ſuch admirable Effects are to be attributed. The Cauſe of them lies deeper, and reſts upon a more durable Foundation, that of their conſtitutional Policy, which, like a radical Stock of Health and Soundneſs in the human Body, that infuſes Alacrity and Firmneſs into all its Members, keeps in requiſite Life and Motion, the various component Parts of the Commonwealth, by providing a due and adequate Meaſure of Action, and Employment, ſuitable to the peculiar Diſpoſition of Individuals; and by ſuffering none of their native Qualifications to lie uncultivated. This, the true Theory of Proſperity in all Countries, no public Adminiſtration has ever been more attentive in reducing to Practice, than that of Holland; of which it has always been the undeniable Praiſe to pay the ſtricteſt Regard to every Maxim neceſſary for the common Welfare and Preſervation.

ANIMATED with theſe laudable Views, they have been particularly ſolicitous in never loſing Sight of that fundamental Principle of Felicity and Laſtingneſs in all States, the Union of thoſe two jarring Extremes, ſo difficult to reconcile in a free and opulent People, a Propenſity to Peace, and an Aptitude to War. The Arts and Occupations appertaining to the firſt, no Government has ever given ſtronger Evidences of their cordially preferring to the laſt; as whenever they have taken up Arms, they have done it with quite other Motives than thoſe of Ambition; and yet in this latter Province, their Behaviour has been ſuch as fully to prove that their Inclination to Tranquillity was not owing to a Defect of Courage and Reſolution to aſſert their Rights; in the juſt Proſecution of which, their Conduct and Bravery may be placed on a Level with thoſe of any Nation whatever.

SUCH an equitable Temper in public Affairs, is a Merit which no other Republic, either ancient or modern,

dern, poſſeſſed of any conſiderable Degree of Wealth and Power, could ever claim with equal Propriety. To ſay nothing of the Spartans and Romans, (with whom, as wholly military Nations, the Compariſon might not ſeem proper) the Athenians and Carthaginians, both commercial Republics, and to which, as ſuch, they bear the neareſt Reſemblance, were inceſſantly engaged in the moſt ambitious Projects; which, as they were totally foreign to the Spirit of their domeſtic Inſtitutions, could not fail, by obſtinately perſiſting in them, notwithſtanding the ſevereſt Warnings, to occaſion their utter Deſtruction. Thus a ſtrange and unaccountable Rage for diſtant unneceſſary Conqueſts, continually exhauſted the Athenians in endleſs Enterprizes Abroad; and prompted at laſt that fatal Expedition to Sicily, from whence may be dated the Commencement of their final Ruin. The Carthaginians purſued the ſame pernicious Courſes; and inſtead of confining themſelves to the Continent of Africa, where Nature ſeemed to offer them a Seat of Empire inacceſſible to the only Power they had to fear, had they known how to avail themſelves of their naval Strength and maritime Situation, they neglected theſe, in order to eſtabliſh themſelves in Spain; a Country that became a perpetual Drain of their Men and Treaſures, and by ingroſſing their chief Attention, rendered them almoſt inſenſible to the imminent Dangers they were expoſed to, by leaving their own Coaſt open and defenceleſs againſt thoſe Invaſions, the Conſequences of which are ſo well known.

In later Ages, the Vanity of becoming Conquerors, infatuated the Councils of ſeveral Italian Republics, and was the original Cauſe of the Diſſolution of ſome; and had, indeed, near effected the Downfall of Venice, the moſt powerful of any: So detrimental to the well-being of any Conſtitution founded on Commerce, is the Spirit of acquiring Dominion by Arms; as in Caſe of ill Succeſs, a State whoſe Strength is not intrinſically conſiderable, runs the Riſk of immediate Deſtruction; or, ſhould its Deſigns proſper, is not much leſs diſtreſſed by the Efforts that were neceſſary to compaſs them.

Errors of this dangerous Nature, have never been, and will probably never be committed by the Dutch; whoſe Conduct, by a cloſe Adherence to the Rules of Moderation, has been always attended with its uſual Reward, Security. Whenever they have been ſo preſſed by their Enemies, that their Situation has become critical, moſt of the great European Powers have unanimouſly concurred in eſpouſing their Cauſe, and have warmly intereſted themſelves in their Defence.

Warned by the Fate of thoſe Nations that have fallen a Sacrifice to their Ambition, they have wiſely followed the Advice which one of their moſt eminent Stateſmen uſed often to inculcate, at a Seaſon when their Proſperity was at its Height, and when their Succeſſes by Land and Sea had rather elated ſome of his Colleagues, to whom he frequently repeated the Ovidian Precept, *Medio tutiſſimus ibis*, the middle Way is ſafeſt.

Directed by this ſalutary Spirit, they ſeem, from the whole Tenour of their Politics, to have conſidered the *Auream Mediocritatem*, that golden Mediocrity, which is the ſureſt Road to Happineſs in private Life, as not leſs applicable to Affairs of State, and equally effectual in promoting the public Felicity of Nations.

In Conformity to this Principle, they have been more intent on the Preſervation of their own Poſſeſſions, than deſirous of making Additions to them; and when at the Concluſion of the general War, that was terminated by the Treaty of Utrecht, an Enlargement was made of their Frontiers, their Safety was manifeſtly the ſole Object they had in View; as the territorial Sovereignty remained to others in the fortified Towns, ceded to them as a Security againſt the Danger of ſo ſuſpicious a Neighbourhood as that of France.

The only Increaſe they have aimed at, has been that of Commerce and Navigation. As they owe to theſe their Strength and Glory, and depend on them alone, for a Continuance of the Figure they have hitherto made, they have employed their whole Care and Study in their Improvement. Senſible that the Moment theſe are loſt, their Importance muſt immediately ceaſe, and that the Loſs of them will undoubtedly follow a Deviation from thoſe Maxims of Induſtry, Perſeverance, and Oeconomy, to the ſtricteſt Obſervance of which they are indebted for their Exiſtence, they have made the moſt faithful Practice of them their unceaſing Duty; and what, in the Judgment of Politicians, principally contributes to beſtow Perpetuity on a State, they have continued unalterably the ſame People, in every eſſential Reſpect, from their Origin to this Day; and remain inviolably attached to the primitive Plans of Proceeding, that enabled their Forefathers to contend victoriouſly with the greateſt Difficulties; and to exemplify, by the moſt illuſtrious Precedents that ever were exhibited, the Truth of thoſe celebrated Mottos and Devices, which they aſſumed in thoſe perilous Times, in order to inſpire their People with Confidence and Intrepidity; by wiſely perſuading them that a Nation, however depreſſed in Circumſtances, becomes invincible through Unanimity; and that Conſtancy and Diligence never fail to accompliſh their Ends, however arduous and remote; and have always invariably proved that Indolence and Deſpondency, by placing Impediments above the Reach of our Endeavours and Reſolution to overcome them, are, in the uſual Courſe of Things, the moſt real Obſtacles to our Deſigns.

When theſe great Examples of Labour, Courage, and Sagacity, are cited before the Subjects of thoſe Governments, whoſe Conduct expoſes them ſo juſtly to Reproach, and are preſſed upon them as Arguments of the ſuperior Merit of the Dutch, it has ſometimes been replied, that the Inhabitants of all Countries have their ſpecific Virtues, as well as Vices, both which are inherent in their native Diſpoſition, as particular Productions are appropriated to their Soil; thereby intimating that national Qualifications are the Gift of pure Accident, and beſtowed, as it were, Gratis, without the Cooperation of thoſe who poſſeſs them.

However plauſible this Notion may appear to the Superficial and Inattentive, it is demonſtrably fraught with the moſt deſpicable Falſhood; and is, in Fact, no more than a weak and futile Attempt to ſcreen the Demerits of People, by repreſenting them as the neceſſary Conſequence of an unavoidable Fatality, which diſtributes good or bad Qualities in the ſame blind, indiſcriminate Manner, as Fortune is depicted ſhowering the Emblems of Happineſs or Calamity on her numerous Votaries.

BUT the Truth is, that as perſonal Accompliſhments flow from the Endeavours of thoſe who have attained them, ſo the Merit of ſome Nations exceeds that of others in the ſame Proportion, and by the ſame Means that place ſome Individuals ſo highly above others.

PROOFS of this are notorious, when we compare the Miſery prevailing in ſome Parts of the World, with the Proſperity that occaſions ſo remarkable a Difference in others. Though it cannot be denied, the firſt proceeds from Indolence, and the ſecond from Induſtry, yet, in Conformity to the above Opinion, Cavillers have pretended that the latter is a free Donation of Nature to Men, annexed to the Spot of their Nativity; as the former, by a Similitude of arguing, is a Miſchance ariſing from the ſame Source; that conſequently neither of them confer any Deſert, or caſt any Blame on the Character of ſuch as are under their reſpective Influence; and though the one, like Deformity or Illneſs, may excite Pity and Commiſeration, yet the other, like Health or Beauty, gives no room for that Praiſe which is founded on Eſteem.

In Anſwer to ſuch groundleſs and frivolous Pretences, let us advert to the contemptible Situation of ſome modern Nations, and the reſpectable Figure made by others, the Engliſh and Dutch, for Inſtance, two People whoſe ſound Policy and prime Eminence in all the Arts conducive to the well-being of a State, form the completeſt Contraſt to the ruinous Conduct adopted by that Ignorance which preſides over, and dictates the Operations of the former.

They were not, however, always in their preſent deſirable Condition. There was a Time when they were abſolutely Barbarians; and this happened at that Period preciſely, when the others were proſperous and flouriſhing.

It is inconteſtible, from theſe very Viciſſitudes in the Circumſtances of both, that neither their good nor bad Fortune, was owing to the local Poſition of either, ſince according to ſuch a Method of reaſoning, it muſt have remained immutably the ſame to this Day.

The prodigious Diſparity therefore, now ſubſiſting between them, muſt have proceeded primitively from another Quarter; and this, according to the concurrent Teſtimony of unqueſtionable Authorities, was no other than the Change of Temper and Inclinations in the Natives of thoſe different Countries, brought about by Revolutions in their Forms of Government, which, by exalting or depreſſing their Minds, have inſpired theſe with Vigour and Activity, and ſunk thoſe into Debility and Sloth.

From theſe authentic Facts, it plainly follows, that neither the Propenſity nor Averſeneſs to exerciſe our native Endowments and Faculties, are the ſpontaneous Reſult of particular Climes; but that they are both indiſputably the Effects of quite other Cauſes, of ſuch evidently as originate in a wiſe or an injudicious Adminiſtration.

There needs no profound Diſquiſition to explain from whence proceeded ſo fortunate a Change for the Inhabitants of England and Holland. It was entirely due to the Senſe and Penetration of thoſe Patriots who had the Reſolution to embrace and purſue more ſalutary Maxims and Meaſures, than had been current among their Anceſtors; who dared, in Defiance of Danger, to attempt, and happily ſucceeded in framing, new Methods of ruling; and who, in order to perpetuate the Bleſſings they had given Birth to, were no leſs careful to infuſe into their Countrymen, a Spirit of Application, Ingenuity and Firmneſs, from which it is hoped they will never degenerate.

The Alterations ſo fatal to the others, are as eaſily deduced from a Decay of Activity and Zeal for the common Welfare in thoſe who were at the Head of Affairs; an Evil that engenders a Spirit of Remiſſneſs and Negligence in what is moſt worthy of Care and Attention, which too ſoon ſpreads itſelf through all the Members of the Community, and terminates, at laſt, in a total Inſenſibility and Oblivion of thoſe great Objects, an Inattention to which, by immediately affecting the general Intereſt of the whole, is ſo ſpeedily found detrimental to that of Individuals in particular.

Thus it appears that political Rectitude in thoſe who guide its Councils, is to a Nation, what a proper Education is to Individuals. As this forms them to laudable Habits, and by the Diſcovery and Improvement of their ſeveral Talents, lays a ſure Foundation for their future Proſperity, the other maintains a ſtrict Diſcipline in every Department, and ſuperintends the various Diſpoſitions of all who compoſe the Body of the State, in order to direct them to ſuch Employments and Purſuits as may prove of univerſal Utility, and to teach them, as it were, the great and capital Science both of public and private Life, that of availing themſelves of every Opportunity that offers for their Advantage.

It is no leſs apparent, from the ſame Reaſons, that neither the Poſſeſſion nor the Want of Abilities, ought to be attributed to any ſuch Incident as that of Climate; and that the different Tribes into which the human Race is divided, participate an equal and impartial Diſtribution of the Seeds of all the eſſential and neceſſary intellectual Accompliſhments, as well as of all the moral Qualifications, the natural Property of which is, either to fructify through Cultivation, or to periſh through Neglect. Nothing therefore can be more abſurd than to imagine they are locally produced like Plants and Vegetables, and confined like theſe, within peculiar Limits.

Some Advocates for this Opinion have ſought to exculpate ſuch of the Southern Nations in Europe, as are conſpicuouſly addicted to Idleneſs, by alledging that, in Regions like theirs, ſo much expoſed to the Influence of the Sun, the bodily, and in conſequence the mental Powers are ſo heavily oppreſſed by the inclement Heat of the Weather, as to be rendered unequal to that laborious Perſeverance in the Proſecution of Buſineſs, in which their northern Rivals ſo much excel them.

The Speciouſneſs and Fallacy of this Argument are ſoon, however, detected, by reflecting that this Spirit of Activity is not reſtricted to the Latitude of England and Holland, but is equally manifeſted in the Colonies theſe Nations have eſtabliſhed in the Eaſt and Weſt-Indies; Countries ſituated in the very Centre of the torrid Zone, and where, notwithſtanding the exceſſive Warmth, they exert themſelves with the ſame unremitting Toil, and Aſſiduity, that characteriſe them in their native Country.

What is ſtill more ſtriking and concluſive, in theſe very ſouthern European Countries (to vindicate the Lazineſs of whoſe preſent Poſſeſſors, the above Allegations have been deviſed) the major Part of the Inhabitants, ſome Centuries ago, were Models of Ingenuity, and remarkable for a ſtirring, active Diſpoſition, and it is no leſs worthy of Notice, that in their moſt ſoutherly Diſtricts are found the leaſt ſlothful Race of Men, throughout the whole Land, at this Day.

But without having Recourſe to the People of Europe, thoſe of much hotter Latitudes will furniſh a ſufficient Number of Facts to invalidate ſo inconſiderate an Aſſertion. If we conſult the Records of Antiquity, we ſhall find that Ægypt was the Nurſery of the moſt induſtrious Mortals at that Time extant. The ancient and modern Chineſe have a Right to the ſame Commendation. The Natives of Indoſtan, Perſia, and Arabia, are no Abettors of Idleneſs; and even in Mexico and Peru, Countries where Civilization was far from being brought to Perfection, they were, according to undoubted Tradition, alert and laborious at the firſt Entrance of the Europeans into that Hemiſphere.

Neither is Indolence reſtrained to the ſolar Climates alone. The northern Tracts of Aſia and America clearly demonſtrate the contrary; and were it not an invidious Taſk, one might extend the Obſervation to ſome Parts of Europe at no leſs Diſtance from the Line.

From the foregoing Accounts and Remarks it may then, be juſtly inferred, that the Diſparity between the Genius and Abilities of various Nations, is chiefly founded on the Nature of their Government, and the Capacity and Turn of Mind of thoſe at the Helm, and very little owing to their accidental Situation on the Surface of the Globe. The Europeans who are ſettled in every Quarter of the habitable Earth, inſtance this continually, by carrying with them, wherever they go, and tranſmitting to their Poſterity, born and reſident Abroad, the Temper and Inclinations that prevail in the Mother-Country. But what confirms the Truth of this Inference in the moſt forcible Manner, and ſets it in the fulleſt Light, whenever through Revolutions at Home, the Notions, Tenets, and Manners of a People, undergo an Alteration, the Change is immediately communicated, and diffuſed with uninterrupted Rapidity in their remoteſt Eſtabliſhments.

On Retroſpection of the Premiſſes, a Reflection naturally occurs, which may ſerve as no improper Concluſion. Since the Conſtitution of a Country operates in all its Concerns, with ſo deciſive an Influence, ſince the Evils that unavoidably flow from a bad one, are ſo heavy and ſevere, and the Benefits derived from a good one, are ſo great and important, how watchful and jealous of any Encroachments and Innovations ought they to be, whoſe enviable Lot it is to live under the Protection of Laws and Regulations, framed on the Principles of Liberty; which, according to the unanimous Judgment of the Wiſe, grounded on the uniform Experience of all Ages, are alone calculated to ſecure the Happineſs of Society.

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